

# CAINO

T U R I S M

MAY 1993

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- Chu Cultural Relics:  
Exquisite and Unique
- Descendants of Hunters  
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Little-Known Daur People
- Tracing the Source  
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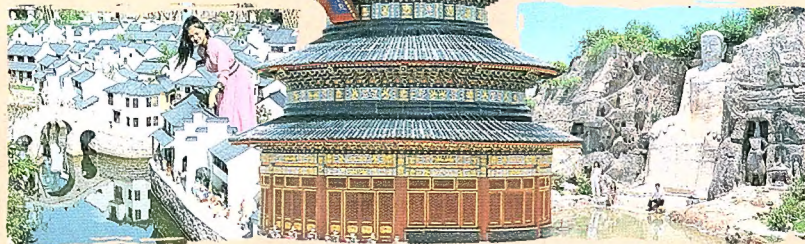
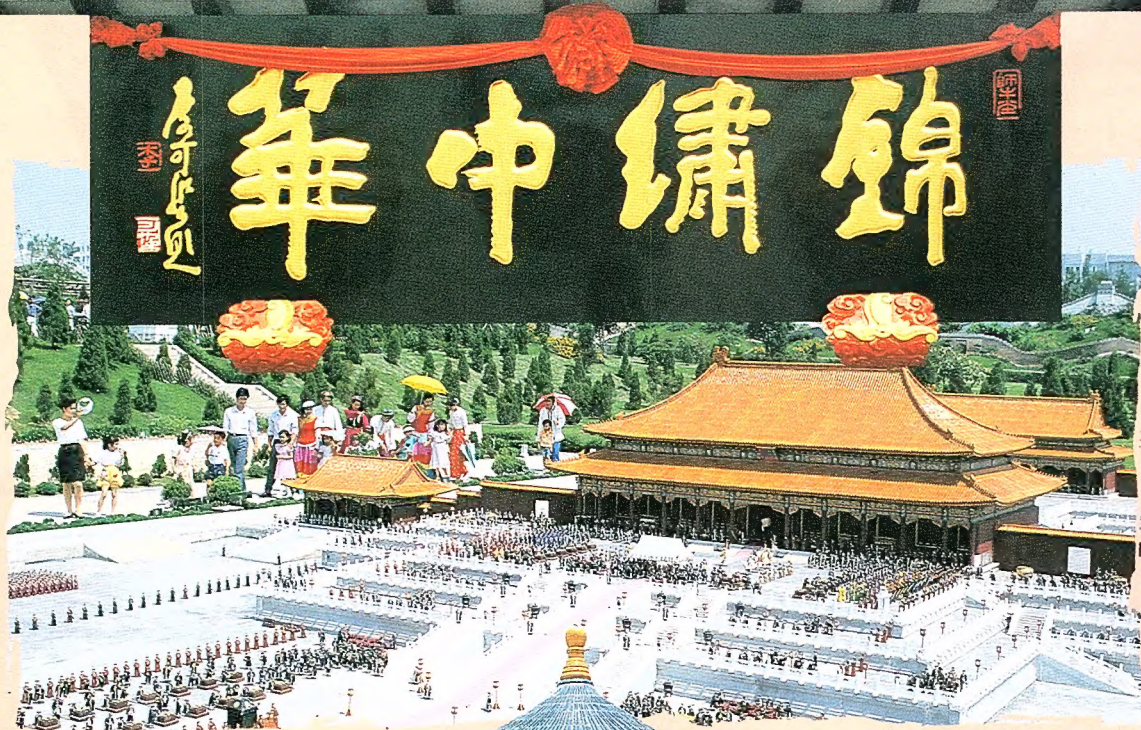


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## EDITORIAL



# The Last Breezes of Spring

By the time you receive this issue, spring will be coming to a close and summer will be fast approaching. In China, the last months of spring are a wonderful time to travel: in the north the cold winters are over, while in the south the hot summers have not yet arrived, thus the temperatures in many regions are perfect.

Wuhan in Hubei Province, for example, is uncomfortable to many people in the summer months, as temperatures soar to 39°C or higher, earning the city the reputation of one of China's "furnaces". In the spring, however, it is a most enjoyable place to visit, and no one should miss the opportunity to explore this historic and unique triple-city.

Also in Hubei, archaeologists have unearthed relics of a culture that thrived here for hundreds of years, known as the State of Chu. Dating as far back as the Warring States Period, the bronzeware, silks, lacquerware and other artifacts discovered are in remarkable condition, and clearly reveal the high level of artistry present over 2,000 years ago. Many of these objects are now on view at museums in Hubei Province.

Next we go north to Gansu Province, where our author takes us on a search for the elusive source of the Weihe River, a little-known tributary of the mighty Yellow River. Chinese civilization began in this region, and much evidence of its religious and historical significance is found during this cultural and geographical exploration.

Much further north in Inner Mongolia, we take a look at the Daur people, a minority said to be descended from the Khitan nomads. With customs and traditions different from other minority groups, they provide an interesting insight into life in these remote regions. The upcoming months would be an ideal time to visit any of these places, so make your journey now, before the sweltering summer months begin!



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Photos & Article by An Ge

Located in the heart of China, the city of Wuhan in Hubei Province is actually three small cities combined into one. Home to foreign concessions in the early 20th century, Wuhan still retains much of its architecture from that time, and is also home of the vast and sparkling East Lake. Wuhan has long been a meeting place for traders along the Yangtse and Hanshui rivers, and today still bustles with activity. It also boasts enough tourist attractions — towers, pavilions, ancient structures and fantastic views — to keep any visitor happily occupied.



## RELICS FROM THE PAST



### Chu Cultural Relics: Exquisite and Unique

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Article by An Ge & Shi Bao Xiu

The State of Chu flourished during the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.) around what is now Hubei Province. The people of Chu were fine craftsmen, producing bronzes, lacquerware, jade and silk of unquestionable beauty and elegance. The influence of the Chu on Chinese people everywhere extends beyond artistic achievements, and some of China's most celebrated historical figures lived in the State of Chu, such as Qu Yuan, for whom the Dragon Boat Festival is celebrated even today.



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# Descendants of Hunters and Fairies — North China's Little-Known Daur People

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Photos & Article by Cheng Weidong

Numbering only 120,000, the Daur people live scattered in small villages in the ice-cold regions of Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang and Heilongjiang. Less well-known than other minorities in the area such as the Uygurs and the Mongols, the Daur have a culture and history all their own, and have adapted admirably to their harsh conditions. In this article we look at the Daur's artistic traditions, marriage customs and unique way of life.



## VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY



# Tracing the Source of the Weihe River

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Article by Shi Bao Xiu

Most visitors to China have heard of the Yellow River, but how many people know about its largest tributary, the Weihe River? The author of this article once lived along the banks of the Weihe River, and decided to try to trace it to its source. On foot and by bus he travelled through Gansu Province, discovering along the way Buddhist grottoes, historical sites and remote villages.

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# Wuhan — Three Cities



*The "Three Towns of Wuhan" is a work imitating an ancient painting.*



# in One

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY AN GE



*Yellow Crane Tower, with its glazed tiles, looks grand and imposing sitting on the top of Snake Hill at the end of the Yangtse River Bridge (by Liu Shaoxuan).*

**T**he city of Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province, sits in the very heartland of China. The second largest metropolis along the Yangtse after Shanghai, the city is divided west to east by the Yangtse River and north to south by the Beijing-Guangzhou Railway. Water, land and air transportation links connect Wuhan to all parts of the country. The Hanshui and Yangtse rivers cut the city into three parts: Hanyang, Hankou and Wuchang, which are linked together by the Jiangnan Bridge on the Hanshui and the Wuhan Yangtse River Bridge on the Yangtse.

Tortoise Hill in Hanyang and Snake Hill in Wuchang, two of Wuhan's most famous landmarks, stand facing each other across a section of wide river. Throughout history, many scholars have been inspired to create poems and prose about these places. In 1957 a 1,670-metre railway and highway bridge was completed between the hills, joining the two scenic areas. The sections of the Yangtse and Hanshui in Hankou are where the docks and railway station are located. The never-ending traffic of passengers and cargo makes Hankou the busiest town of the three.



*Gingchuan (Sunny Valley) Tower has an ancient and simple elegance.*



*Today, the Ancient Music Terrace remains a place where dance lovers meet to enjoy the atmosphere.*

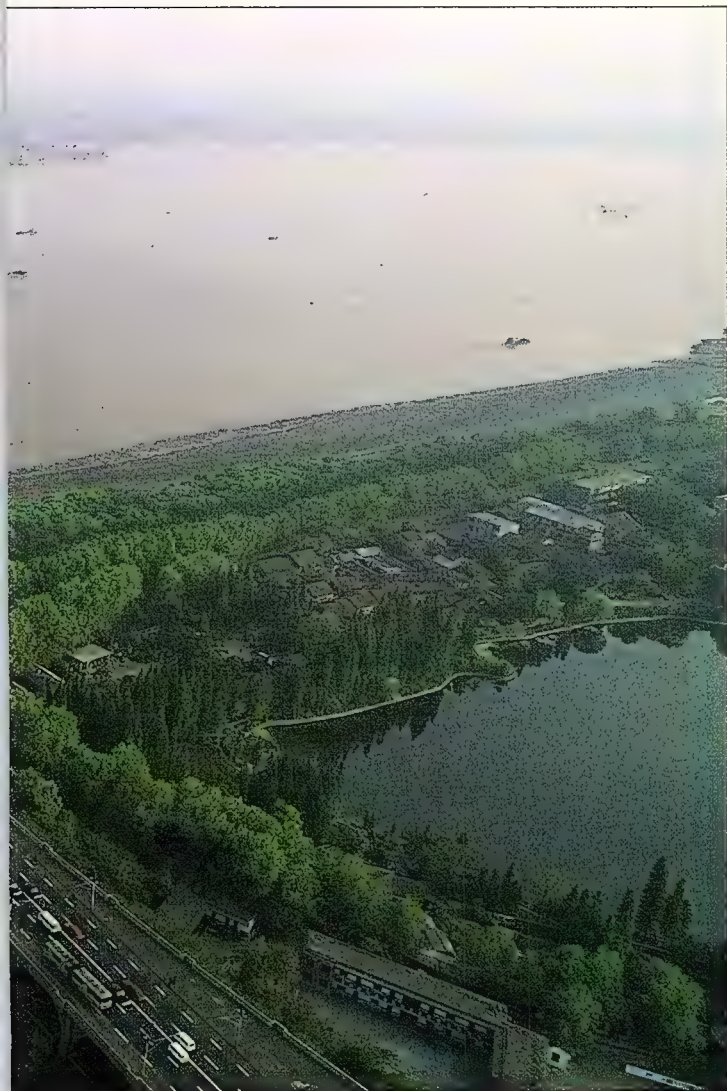


*Elevators in the TV tower on top of Tortoise Hill can take visitors to a height of over 100 metres for a bird's-eye view of the three cities and the Yangtse and Hanshui rivers.*





*The Ancient Music Terrace commemorates two great musicians who became close friends here over 2,000 years ago (by Huang Keqin).*



## Hanyang — Hills, Towers and an Ancient Music Terrace

Hanyang is the smallest of the three towns, spreading around Tortoise Hill on the northern bank of the Yangtse. The summit of Tortoise Hill supports a 220-metre-high TV tower. An elevator takes visitors as far as the tower halls, which hover more than 100 metres above the ground. The first floor of the tower building is a revolving restaurant, the second a viewing hall and the top an open viewing stand with a capacity of 200 people. From here, the entire triple-town of Wuhan can be seen.

The few thousand-ton vessels that ply the vast expanse of the Yangtse River look very lonely from this vantage point. Indeed, even if the traffic volume greatly increased, this important channel for water transportation would still not be overcrowded. Looking further away, one's eyes are met by the misty Jiangnan Plain, which with its network of lakes, ponds and rivers truly looks like "a land of fish and rice" — a Chinese saying meaning an area rich in foodstuffs.

Qingchuan (Sunny Valley) Tower, just recently restored, lies by the Yangtse at the foot of Tortoise Hill. Originally built during the reign of the Ming Dynasty Emperor Jiajing (1522-1566), it directly faces the Yellow Crane Tower on the other side of the river.



*One of the most well-preserved ancient temples in Wuhan, the Guiyuan Temple on Cuiwei Road in Hanyang houses some magnificent Buddha statues (by Wang Wanmin).*



*There are many pedicabs in Hankou to cater for the needs of travellers (by Lin Li).*



*The Minzhong Amusement Park is a famous recreational centre with a history of over 70 years. The theatre where Han and Chu operas are staged is always packed to full capacity from daytime to evening.*



*Hankou is the busiest part of Wuhan. Many of the buildings reflect architecture from the early 20th century, when they were within the concessions occupied by Britain, France, Germany, Russia and Japan.*



Approaching the hill from Qingchuan Street, one follows a path through the woods and comes to the front of an ancient courtyard with whitewashed walls covered in black tiles. This is the courtyard of King Yu's Temple. According to one legend, Yu, a ruler of the Xia Dynasty (c. 21st-16th century B.C.) came to this exact place, dredged up the water channels and directed the Hanshui into the Yangtse. The great stone that extends into the water was where he stood, hence its name Yugongji (Yu's Merit Rock). In the corridor of the temple stands the Flood Control Iron Ox, looking sternly at the river.

Built right on top of Yu's Merit Rock, the three-storey Sunny Valley Tower, with its dark purple pillars, railings and up-turned eaves looks magnificent and solemn. As there are very few tourists at the moment, the tower is rather quiet and peaceful. Standing against the railings on top of the tower, one is rewarded with a view of Snake Hill across the river and the Yellow Crane Tower dimly visible in the distance. Nearby, the hazy river waters beat against the bank, leading one's thoughts to scenes from the ancient past.

By Yuehu Lake west of Tortoise Hill stands the Ancient Music Terrace. It is said that over 2,000 years ago two great musicians of the State of Chu in the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.), Yu Boya and Zhong Ziqi, met here by accident. When Yu Boya played a tune on the ancient zither to reflect the beauty of the towering mountains, Zhong Ziqi remarked, "That sounds as mighty as Mount Tai." And when Yu Boya imitated flowing water on his instrument, Zhong made a remark saying, "It flows just like the Yangtse." After Zhong's death, Yu played the *Towering Mountains and Flowing Water* tune in memory of his friend. The audience listening laughed at him for playing music and crying at the same time, as if he were a madman. Yu said sorrowfully, "You may be surrounded by friends, but to find someone who really understands you is very difficult." So

saying, he cut the strings, smashed the instrument and gave up playing for ever. Later, the tune became a symbol of friendship and the place became known as the Ancient Music Terrace.

In front of the terrace is a teahouse where young people and dance lovers come in the morning to dance. The path leading to the teahouse is flanked by plum trees, clove plants and osmanthus trees. Situated between the plants and an ornamental enclosure are tables and chairs for drinking tea and playing chess, with people sitting both inside and outside the hall from morning till evening.

Among the trees in a garden on the right of the teahouse is a stone tablet pavilion with an inscription by the Qing Dynasty Emperor Daoguang (r. 1821-1850) reading "The stone house of two close friends". On holidays Beijing opera fans gather here, singing and performing in turn inside the pavilion as if it were a stage. Even foreign tourists visiting the place are moved by their enthusiasm and devotion, and many of them go up the stage to take photos with the performers. They do not have to understand the words to appreciate the beauty and skill of Beijing opera.

A dozen steps lead from the pavilion to a gate, behind which is a peaceful yard. In the yard a white marble terrace is supported by a stone pillar inscribed with two characters which say "Music Terrace". In the north of the yard stands a hall with gabled roofs. On its horizontal inscription board, the characters read "Towering Mountains and Flowing Water". The eastern part of the yard has an exquisite winding corridor decorated with stelae, while the western part of the yard has two recently completed stone statues of Yu Boya and Zhong Ziqi. This is the exact site where the two musicians were said to have played. Behind them are stone railings which look over beautiful Yuehu Lake.



It is the fashion in Wuhan to decorate one's house with large posters, usually of nature scenes or film stars.



## Hankou — A Bustling Business District

Hankou is not known for any particular scenic spot or site of historical interest, but rather for being the busiest part of Wuhan. Visitors to Wuhan should not miss a visit down the bustling streets of Hankou. Dozens of docks line the river for 30 kilometres, and along the streets are villas and Western-style buildings built in the early years of the 20th century. Thousands of merchants, travellers and artists flock here from all over the Jiangnan Plain and elsewhere in China, making Hankou either their temporary or permanent home.

The great variety of people adds much colour and vitality to the town.

Being one of the four most important cities in the country during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), Hankou has always been a commercial centre. In 1861 it was declared a trading port, and shortly afterwards Zhongshan Avenue became the home of foreign concessions belonging to Britain, France, Germany, Russia and Japan. Today, foreign influence from that time is still visible, and the decay of some of the buildings lends the town a sense of history.

Jiefang Avenue, running parallel to Zhongshan Avenue, took its shape in the 1950s. This 26.7-kilometre-long and 60-metre-wide thoroughfare is flanked by, among other buildings, such landmarks as the Wuhan Theatre, the Wuhan Department Store, Wuhan Exhi-

*The Hanzheng Street Market lies next to the Hanshui River, where rural residents from the Jiangnan Plain get off their ships to do business.*



Similar to glass-blowing, this craftsman is making figurines out of sugar, a treat for children to both play with and eat (by Wu Zhijian).



In the morning, all the streets and lanes in Hankou become open eating areas. The locals, including schoolchildren, are accustomed to having their breakfast this way.



bition Hall, Wuhan Gymnasium, Hankou Hotel and the Yangtse Hotel, the latter having been completed in the 1980s.

The busiest shopping centre in Hankou, Jiangnan Road, enjoys the same fame as that of Wangfujing Avenue in Beijing and Nanjing Road in Shanghai. It cuts across Zhongshan Avenue to connect with Jiefang Avenue in the north and extends southward to the Wuhan Port Passenger Transportation Dock at Yanjiang Boulevard. Several hundred shops line the 2-kilometre-long road, attracting thousands of visitors, both Chinese and foreign, each day.

Hanzheng Street runs parallel with Yanhe Boulevard along the Hanshui River. People from the Jiangnan Plain coming to Wuhan via the Hanshui River usually disembark here and then do business on Hanzheng Street. This street, therefore, has become somewhat of a

*In the age of computers, traditional Chinese abacuses are still widely in use here.*



market for low-priced garments. Pedlars from rural Hubei display on the ground a wide range of merchandise including farming tools, medicinal herbs, abacuses and much more. One small lane along the street is solely occupied by people selling silk flowers, turning it into a riot of vibrant colours.

Apart from visiting Hanzheng Street and Jiangnan Road, rural visitors also like to watch opera performances in the Minzhong (People's) Amusement Park on Zhongshan Avenue. First built in 1919, it is Wuhan's largest recreational centre, and has been a performing stage for the most famous actors and actresses of China's various opera troupes. Isadora Duncan, the American dancer and pioneer of modern dance, also performed here on January 17, 1927.

*Many craftsmen from other localities wait for their customers by the railway line.*



*The Beijing-Guangzhou Railway used to cut through the town of Hankou but has now been relocated to the suburbs. Residents living along the old railroad do their cooking right on the old rails.*



*This building on Jiangnan Road in Hankou was built in the 1930s and is located in the foreign concessions area.*



*This Taoist priest at the Changchun Temple on Wuluo Road is deep in concentration as he performs a solemn ritual for the departed soul of one of the temple's followers (by Yu Xiaolin).*



*At Yellow Crane Tower, one can hear live reproductions of ancient chime music, popular over 2,000 years ago.*



*Yellow Crane Tower at night (by Lan Qing)*



Nowadays karaoke halls, dance halls and billiard rooms offer a wide variety of entertainment. Traditional performances such as acrobatic shows, Han operas and Chu operas still draw large numbers of fans, and both daytime and evening shows are always packed to full capacity. Sometimes old people, after watching the daytime show, will buy something to eat and sit outside the theatre, watching the performers putting on and taking off their make-up. When evening falls, they go back to enjoy the evening programme.

The old Beijing-Guangzhou Railway, lying between Jiefang Avenue and Zhongshan Avenue, runs through the district of Hankou. The many residents that live nearby are long used to hearing the trains chugging away outside their houses. Now that the new Hankou Railway Station has been put into operation, however, the old one has quieted down considerably. Although recently repainted, not much happens here anymore. Occasionally one or two short-distance trains pull in, letting off commuters and farmers who come with their loads of produce to sell in the city.

### Wuchang, Home of Beautiful East Lake

Wuchang is the seat of the Hubei Provincial government. Known as Xiakou over 1,700 years ago, it was a town in the State of Wu,

which stationed soldiers and stored grain here. The Yellow Crane Tower is said to have been in ancient Xiakou, though the new one completed in 1985 stands on Snake Hill at the southern end of the bridge that crosses the Yangtse. Many other towers and pavilions stand in the vicinity of Yellow Crane Tower, and together they form a park which is visited by large numbers of people every day. The vast expanse of the East Lake, a major national scenic spot, looks exceptionally picturesque from up here.

Though physically Yellow Crane Tower has been subjected to destruction many times in history, its fame as the "First Famous Tower in South China" has not diminished in any sense. This fact can be attributed to, apart from its scenic value, the large collection of poems written here by great poets throughout the dynasties. Many of the poems have been handed down through the centuries, the most famous being *Yellow Crane Tower* by Cui Hao and those by Li Bai, both well-known scholars during the Tang Dynasty (618-907).

There is regular ferry service between the Wuhanguan Docks in Hankou and the Zhonghua Road Docks in Wuchang, which are just at the foot of the Yangtse River Bridge. At the bridge, elevators take people to the top of the bridge tower, which stands some 80 metres above the ground. From here, one has an excellent view of Yellow Crane Tower on the summit of Snake Hill.

The original Yellow Crane Tower, in ancient times, was built on Huanghu (Yellow Swan) Rock on the river bank right below where the bridge tower now stands. The new tower is over a thousand



The Zhonghua Road Docks in Wuchang are at the foot of the Yangtse River Bridge. Commuters are by now well accustomed to the majestic scenes along the Yangtse.



Many fashionably decorated shops have appeared in Wuhan.

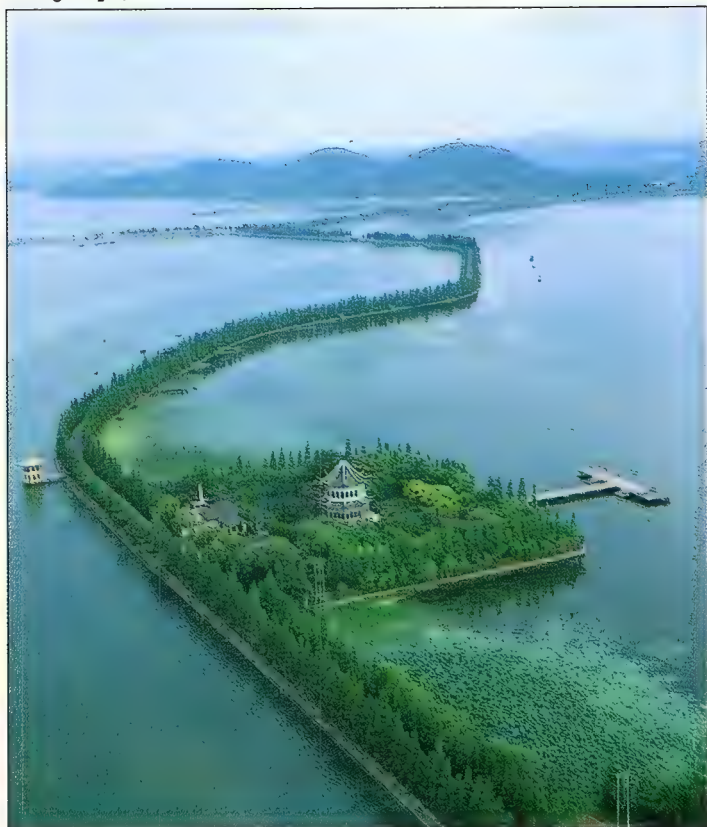


metres away from its original site. In front of the tower are three tiers, or platforms: on the first layer is a pagoda, and on the second platform arched gates are flanked by corridors and pavilions. The bronze sculpture called "The Yellow Crane Returns" sits on a large rock, and the main tower itself stands in the centre of the third platform. The 51-metre-tall structure consists of five floors, and from the outside looks like both a tower and a pagoda, as it combines the architectural features of the two. In imitation of similar structures made of wood, the cement tower is supported by 72 huge pillars and 60 eaves with yellow glazed tiles, presenting an image of magnifi-

cence and grandeur. It is further embellished with over a dozen horizontal boards, all inscribed with beautiful Chinese characters.

Though quite different from what Cui Hao and Li Bai saw more than a thousand years ago, the view of the vicinity from the top of the tower has only become more impressive. Another difference is that certainly there are more visitors today. Besides visiting the tower and other scenic and historic spots on Snake Hill, many tourists come here to taste Wuchang fish, a kind of freshwater bream. A rare delicacy of Liangzi Lake in Wuchang, and therefore quite expensive, the fish has a tender texture and delicious taste. The best place to try

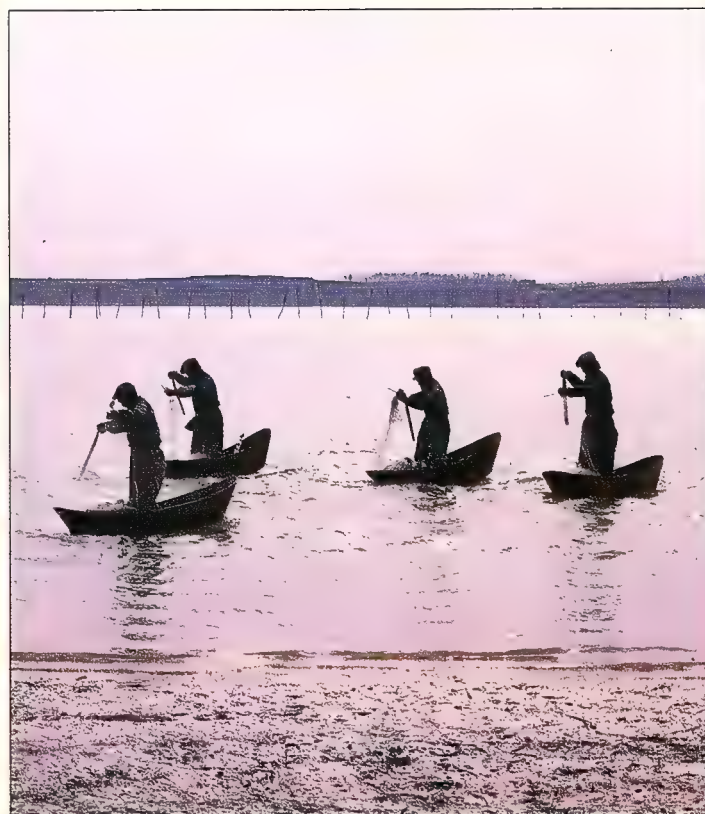
**East Lake Park in Wuchang is expansive and beautiful. A twisting, tree-shaded path connects the Mid-Lake Pavilion with both banks (by Huang Keqin).**



**Also known as the Red Building, the office for the Wuchang Uprising Army on Snake Hill is a reminder of this historic event, part of the Revolution of 1911 which overthrew the Qing Dynasty (by Li Futang).**



**Wuchang fish, a kind of bream, comes from Liangzi Lake in Wuchang. For over 1,000 years the fish has been renowned for its tender texture and delicious taste.**



**The city of Wuhan is situated on the Jiangnan Plain which is covered with lakes and ponds, thus giving rise to these fishermen's unique boats (by Huang Chunhui).**




this regional specialty is at the Dazhonghua Restaurant on Pengliuyang Road south of Snake Hill.

As Wuhan is located on the plains between the Yangtse and Hanshui rivers, its suburbs are full of lakes and rivers of various sizes. Lying in the eastern suburbs of Wuchang, Donghu (East Lake) Park covers 3,000 hectares, several times the size of its more famous cousin, West Lake in Hangzhou. Surrounded by hills, the lake's main tourist attractions are found on the west bank along Donghu Road and Moshan Hill. Running across the lake, a causeway several kilometres long called Yanhu Boulevard links up the banks, and pleasure boats gently glide to and fro across the lake.

It takes about 30 minutes to reach the lake from Wuchang by bus. Visitors might wish to get off at the Hubei Provincial Museum by the lake and look at the dazzling lacquerwares and bronzes dating back to the State of Chu during the Warring States Period. The mu-

sic resounding in the museum is a recording of chimes unearthed over 2,000 years old.

Donghu Road leads from the museum to a series of gardens and small parks which feature pavilions, towers, corridors, bridges and trees. The names of these places themselves are very evocative: Tingtao (Listening to the Waves) Tower, Shuiyun (Water and Cloud) Corridor, Xingyinge (Pavilion for Reciting Poetry), Binhu (Lakeside) Art Gallery, Bitan Guanyu (Viewing Fish at Green Pool) and Changtian (Eternity) Tower.

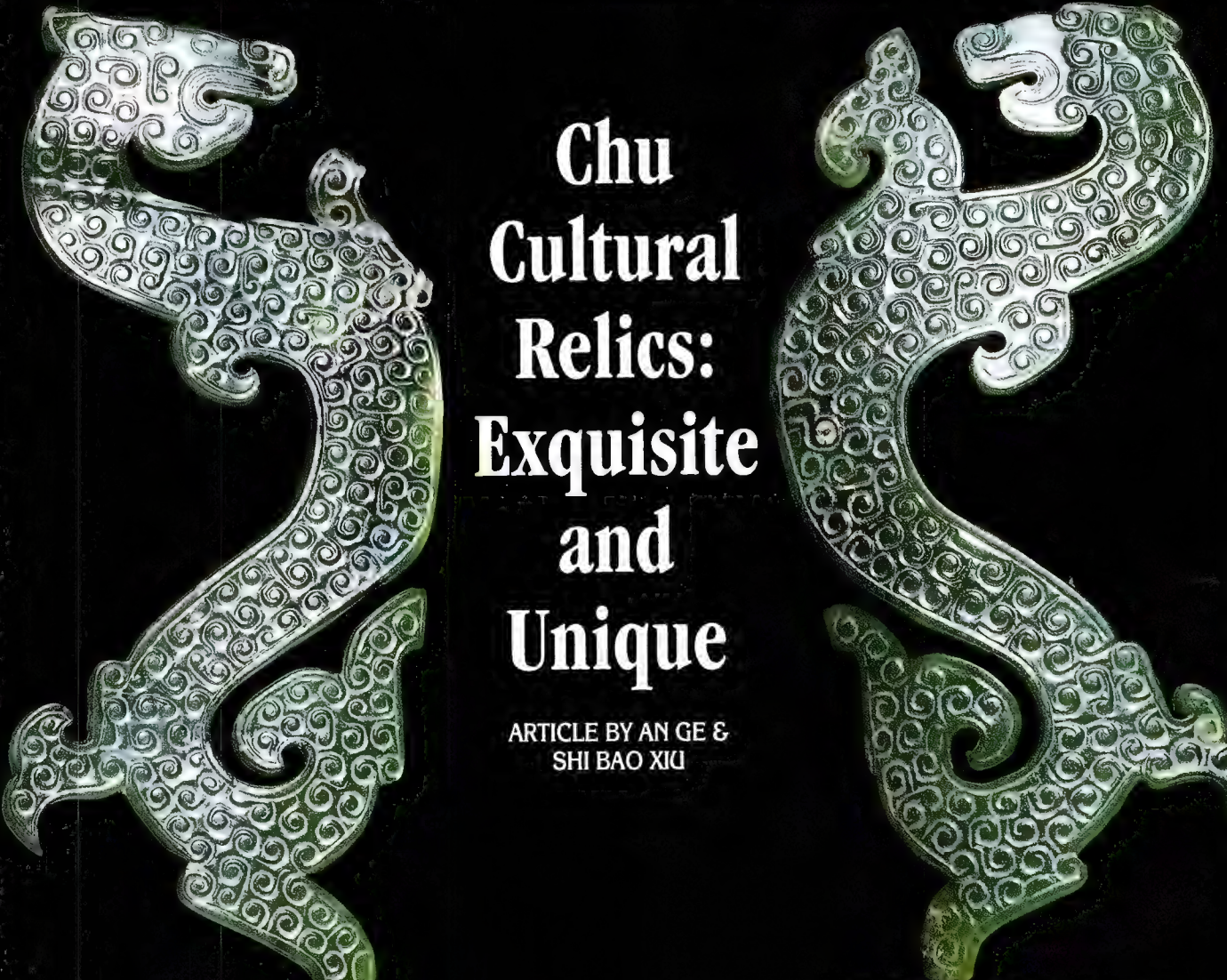
On Moshan Hill across the lake is a man-made garden of potted landscapes, a botanical garden, and a plum garden, arranged in such a way as to appear naturally grown. This was the last stop on my tour, and from Zhubei Pavilion on the top of the hill, I took in one final panoramic view of beautiful East Lake. 

Translated by Huang Youyi



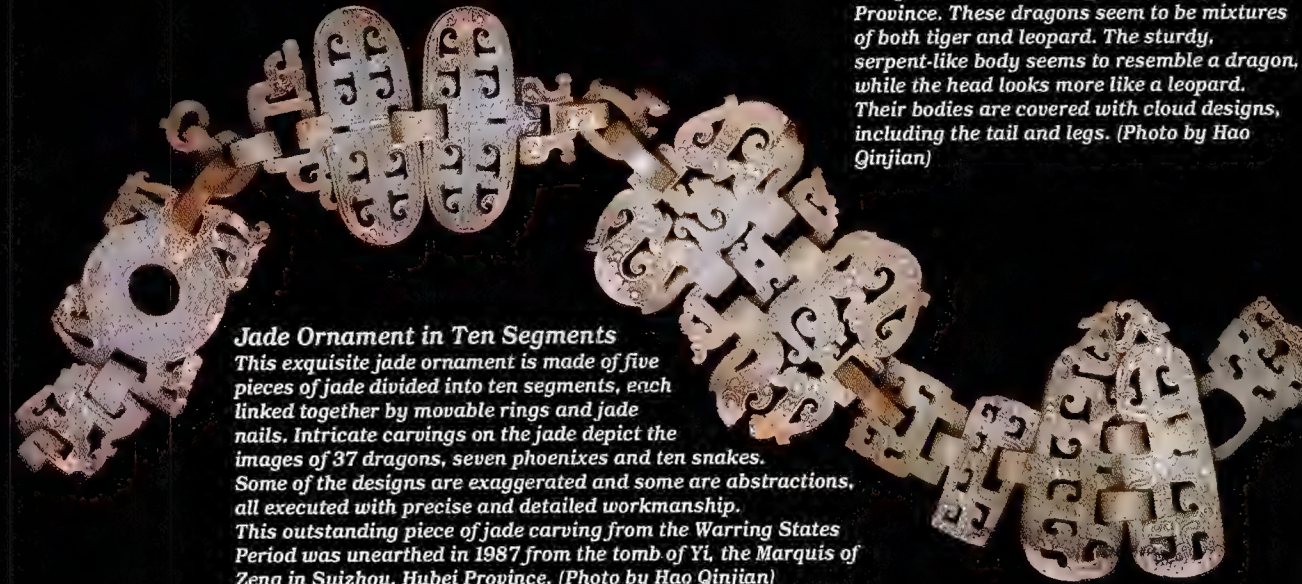
Business in the suburban Wuhan markets is always brisk (by Huang Keqin).





# Chu Cultural Relics: Exquisite and Unique

ARTICLE BY AN GE &  
SHI BAO XIU

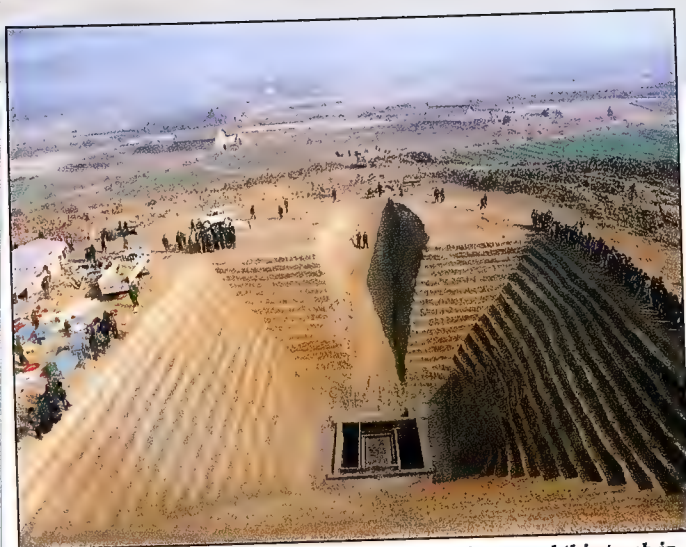


**Jade Dragon Pendants** These two pieces were unearthed from the Wangshan Tomb in Jiangling County in Hubei Province. These dragons seem to be mixtures of both tiger and leopard. The sturdy, serpent-like body seems to resemble a dragon, while the head looks more like a leopard. Their bodies are covered with cloud designs, including the tail and legs. (Photo by Hao Jinjian)

## Jade Ornament in Ten Segments

This exquisite jade ornament is made of five pieces of jade divided into ten segments, each linked together by movable rings and jade nails. Intricate carvings on the jade depict the images of 37 dragons, seven phoenixes and ten snakes. Some of the designs are exaggerated and some are abstractions, all executed with precise and detailed workmanship. This outstanding piece of jade carving from the Warring States Period was unearthed in 1987 from the tomb of Yi, the Marquis of Zeng in Suizhou, Hubei Province. (Photo by Hao Jinjian)





**In 1987, archaeologists from Hubei Province discovered this tomb in Baoshan in the city of Jingmen. It is an intact tomb belonging to an official from the State of Chu. More than 500 precious relics were unearthed from the tomb. (Photo by Jin Ling)**

**T**he State of Chu existed from the Western Zhou Dynasty to the Warring States Period (c.11th century-221 B.C.) in what is now Hubei Province. In its 800 years of existence as a political state, the Chu developed a splendid and romantic culture, adding a unique chapter to China's early history. Since then the Chu civilization has attracted the attention of many scholars and, in recent decades archaeologists, who wish to learn more about this ancient culture.

In fact, many of China's present-day customs, traditions and artistic creations originated in Chu times, for example the well-known Chinese poem *Li Sao* by Qu Yuan, many famous musical scores, the Dragon Boat races and the custom of eating glutinous rice wrapped in bamboo leaves during the Dragon Boat Festival.

Among the Chu relics unearthed in recent decades, bronze-ware, silk and jade are the most remarkable, especially when compared with those of other feudal princedoms of that time period. Situated as it was in the middle reaches of the Yangtse River, the Chu was an agricultural kingdom on the river's banks, where rice grew in abundance in densely planted rows. A body of water called Yunmeng Lake was linked to the Yangtse, forming a massive waterway.

The beauty of the ever-changing scenes by the river and lake, and in the skies above, had a strong bearing on the creation of objects for daily use. The culture of the Yellow River valley, especially that of the Central Plains, formed the main stream of culture at the time, as these regions were the political centre of the preceding Shang and Zhou dynasties. As such, it exerted a great impact on Chu culture and later became its very source. Due to geographical reasons the State of Chu was by no means a closed society, and absorbed aspects of neighbouring cultures like the Bashu and the Yue to the east and west. The Chu, the Bashu and the Yue were "riverside" agricultural states with rice as their chief crops. At the height of its prosperity, the State of Chu gobbled up or annexed all the feudal princedoms in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtse and the Huaihe rivers, thereby mixing its own culture with those of the annexed states.

Unlike the Chu, the subsequent Qin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.) had millet as its chief agricultural produce, with the extensive loess pla-

teau extending for miles around. The Qin inherited the legacy of the agriculturally-based Western Zhou culture, but also absorbed the tough and practical attitudes of the nomadic nationalities living in the area. This combination gave the Qin a culture and life style quite different from the Chu.

### **A Wide Variety of Artifacts**

One of the objects typical of the pre-Qin period is *wadang*, or specially-made roof tiles decorated with designs of deer, phoenix and other birds. The workmanship was simple and the images realistic. The terracotta horses and warriors of the late Qin further developed this skill, however the quality of Qin cultural relics is in no way as exquisite or refined as the Chu.

Among Chu cultural relics are the *qing* (an inverted bell) on a stand, embellished with strange animal designs; the *bo* (a large bell with a flat opening and circular knob on top) which often features snake or dragon images; lacquered shields with stylized double phoenix designs, and embroidered handkerchiefs with dragon, phoenix and tiger patterns, all arranged in an orderly manner. These pieces represent some of the more unique aspects of Chu cultural relics, showing both the skill and the imagination of ancient artisans.

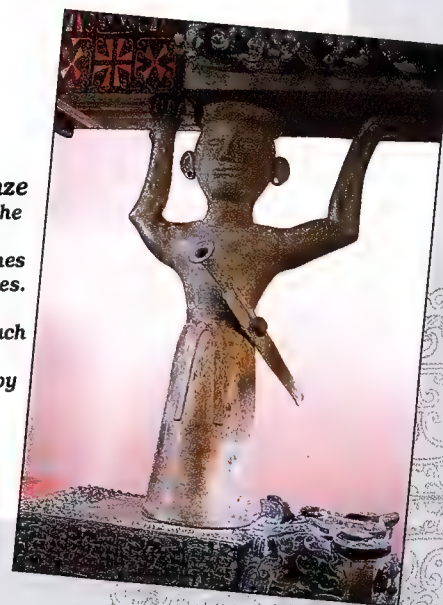
Another typical example of Chu bronzeware is the *zun* (a wine container) uncovered in the grave of Yi, the Marquis of Zeng, which deserves worldwide attention as an exquisite piece of metal sculpture. The four tigers in the upper part of the centre of the container, the curved, wave-like designs on the back, neck and tail of the animal and the extraordinary length of the exaggerated tongue give the viewer a strong sense of movement. These features are rarely seen on cultural relics of the Qin and other feudal princedoms of the Central Plains during this period.

### **Lacquerware and Rare Silks**

Chu lacquerware is generally distinguished by the fact that red and black are the key colours, harmonized by yellow, mineral green, gold and silver. Creating a beautiful contrast in colour, they are then brightly varnished. The lines that make up the patterns are expertly drawn and finely executed. These exquisitely-made objects demonstrate clearly the full creative talents of the ancient people of Chu.

(Continued on page 26)

**A Figurine Holding Up Bronze Chimes** From the tomb of Yi, the Marquis of Zeng, archaeologists unearthed this set of bronze chimes (not shown) supported by figurines. This bronze figurine carrying a sword at its waist has holes in each of its ears and is holding over its head the ancient chimes. (Photo by Pan Bingyuan)





► **Fu Chai's Spear** This bronze spear used by Fu Chai, the Prince of Wu, was buried with its master in Jiangling, Hubei, where it was unearthed in 1983. Measuring 29.5 cm, it has an odd shape, and is carved with linear rhombus-shaped patterns. The gold writing states that the spear belonged to Prince Wu and was for his own personal use. The workmanship was so fine that its blade and tip were still very sharp when found. Although it was a weapon from the State of Wu, it is now classified as belonging to the category of Chu relics, since Wu was conquered by Yue and Yue in turn was annexed by Chu in the early Warring States Period. (Photo by Hao Qinjian)



► **Gou Jian's Sword** Swords made of bronze were regarded as an object of great value during the Spring and Autumn Period. A good sword could even attain a nationwide reputation, and feudal princes would send tens of thousands of troops to fight their rivals in order to seize such a sword. Among the famous bronze swords uncovered are Fu Chai's sword, Gou Jian's sword and Guang's sword. Gou Jian was the Prince of Yue while Guang was the Prince of Wu. Of these, Gou Jian's sword, unearthed in 1965 in Jiangling, Hubei, is the most well-preserved and in the best condition. Like Fu Chai's sword, it is decorated with connecting rhombus designs. On the hilt are inscribed the words: Made by Gou Jian, Prince of Yue, for his personal use. Buried underground for over 2,000 years, the sword when found was still very sharp and glistened like new. (Photo by Hao Qinjian)



◀ **A Strange Bronze Creature** This odd-looking bronze animal, unearthed from the tomb of Yi, the Marquis of Zeng, actually was a pedestal for a set of instruments called qing. Originally in a pair, this single pedestal was created with a dragon's head, a crane's long neck, a bird's body and the legs of a turtle — a truly remarkable work of imagination! (Photo by Pan Bingyuan)







◀ **Ceremonial Zun Wine Container with Stand** Unearthed in the tomb of Yi, the Marquis of Zeng, this zun is a bronze wine container made during the Warring States Period. The wine is put into the elevated centre, and hot water poured into the stand to keep the wine warm. The centre piece could also be separated from the stand, if needed. It is extraordinary that this detailed, exquisite piece was made with the technology available to people 2,000 years ago. (Photo by Hao Qinjian)



◀ **The Huge Bell of Chu** This bronze bell, called bo, was part of a set of chimes that once belonged to the King of Chu. During the Spring and Autumn Period, the State of Wu conquered Chu's capital city and the King of Chu fled to the State of Sui, where he took refuge. Later, in the Warring States Period, Chu defeated all the states around the Jiangnan Plain except for Sui, and the King of Chu presented the King of Sui with this huge bell as a token of his gratitude. On the top of the bell sit two facing dragons, beautifully cast to give a real sense of fluidity and motion, which are carved with various intricate designs. (Photo by Pan Bingyuan)





► **Lacquer Pan with a Dragon-Fighting-Phoenix Design (Reproduction)** This dragon-fighting-phoenix pan is a fine example of lacquerware from the State of Chu. The design is highly stylized, with the phoenix's body taking up the majority of space and the dragon just a fraction of its size at the very bottom. The bodies of the two creatures are actually made up of flowers, leaves, stalks and other patterns, showing a very decorative style and strong delineation. The dragon in the Central Plains normally occupied a pre-eminent position, however, here it is relegated to a minor position, with the added detail of having its tail bitten by the phoenix. (Photo by Wu Zhijian)

▲ **Colourfully Sculpted Wooden Food Container** This piece, also unearthed from the tomb of Yi, the Marquis of Zeng, is a wooden lacquered food container called dou. From the Warring States Period, it is exquisitely painted with two large carved handles. The top of the cover has three intertwined dragons in relief, with life-like noses and eyes. There is also a cloud pattern in bas-relief on another part of the lid. The cloud pattern and the scales on the dragon's bodies are dotted with gold, giving it a grand and stately appearance. (Photo by Hao Qinjian)

► **Lacquerware with Phoenix and Fish** This lacquered plate is painted with the design of a phoenix chasing after two fish. The phoenix has two strong legs which are in motion, as though it were actually giving chase. The two fish are swimming on the perimeter of the plate's depression, and the outer edges of the plate are also painted with simple designs. An excellent decorative piece with a strong sense of contrast, the plate was unearthed in 1975 from the No. 11 grave in Shuihudi, Yunmeng. (Photo by Hao Qinjian)



▲ **Lacquered Coffin** During the Warring States Period the people of the State of Chu, to which this coffin belonged, had the custom of invoking the phoenix to protect the deceased so that the soul might have peace of mind in the afterlife. The design on this coffin shows that the standard of artistry at the time was exceptionally high, and is certainly more colourful than the coffins we use today! (Photo by Jin Ling)





▼ **Lacquered Phoenix Shield (Reproduction)**

This shield has two large and very stylized phoenixes in the centre, as well as four small phoenixes at the top. At the bottom are depictions of flowers and plants, and the edges are painted with beautiful patterns. This shield was not actually used in battle, but was made as a burial object for nobles or dignitaries. (Photo by Wu Zhijian)



▼ **Colourful Flying Bird on a Tiger Base (Reproduction)** This finely crafted piece depicts a flying bird resting on a base in the form of a tiger. This imaginative and highly abstracted objet d'art served no practical purpose, unlike many of the other pieces; it is art for art's sake. It measures 103 cm high and was unearthed from the No. 4 grave in Lijiatai, Jingzhou. (Photo by Wu Zhijian)







**Embroidery with Dragon, Phoenix and Tiger Designs**

This work of embroidery is an imaginative battle between the dragon, phoenix and tiger. The tigers are immediately recognizable by their striped orange and black bodies, while the phoenixes and dragons encircle the pair. (Photo by Jin Ling)



**Flying Phoenix Embroidery (Reproduction)**

The Chu people's love for the phoenix is clearly demonstrated in this striking piece. The phoenix is shown spreading its wings and showing off its beautiful feathers and tail. (Photo by Peng Zheng)





◀ **Dragon and Phoenix Embroidery** This piece of embroidery is both complicated and highly decorative, with the dragons and phoenixes intertwined to the point of abstraction. This piece was made 2,000 years ago. (Photo by Peng Zhenge)

▼ **Dancing Phoenix Embroidery (Reproduction)** In each section of this piece of embroidery are two phoenixes in dancing postures, the lower ones being particularly stylized. Interspersed with small flowers and other designs, the final result is one of joyous movement. (Photo by Peng Zhenge)





(Continued from page 19)

A number of rare and superb silk pieces were unearthed in 1982 from a Chu grave in Mashan, in Jiangling County, Hubei Province. They include quilts, robes, dresses, skirts, trousers and ornamental belts. They are made of a variety of silk materials such as spun silk, damask, silk gauze, brocade, thick black silk, silk ribbons and silk bands. What is most impressive about these pieces is that the embroidery is worked with such skill that the figures seem to have real fluidity, as if they are in perpetual motion.

### Uniquely Crafted Bronzeware

A large number of pieces of fine bronzeware from the Warring States Period have been unearthed in Hubei Province. In classification, shape and make the Chu bronzeware far surpasses that of

the Central Plains. This is especially so in the casting technique, which utilizes minute perforations in the moulds — a unique creation of the Chu people. In comparison with Central Plains bronzeware, Chu bronzeware has a more complicated structure, more detailed treatment, plus flowing lines and a sense of vividness and movement. Chu bronzeware has achieved a level of success that is equal to none.

If you are planning a visit to Hubei Province, you might want to stop and take a look at some of these valuable artifacts. Bronzes and lacquerware are on view at the Hubei Provincial Museum in Wuchang, and silks are on exhibit in a special hall of the Jingzhou Prefectural Museum in Hubei.

Translated by He Fei

## Dragon and Phoenix Symbolism in Chinese Art

On Chu cultural relics both the phoenix and the dragon are frequently featured, but of the two the phoenix is more commonly seen, particularly on lacquerware and silk. In fact, in some instances the dragon is represented as having evil connotations — a real rarity in Chinese art. The pre-eminence of the phoenix in Chu artifacts is an interesting phenomenon, reflecting a culture which worshipped the phoenix over other creatures.

Down through the ages, both the phoenix and the dragon have traditionally been viewed as symbols of the Chinese people. Evidence of dragon and phoenix worship can be found on oracle bones and tortoise shells dating as far back as the Shang Dynasty (c. 16th-11th century B.C.). Both are mythical creatures, taken to represent various ideals about nature and human life.

In one Chinese dictionary the dragon is described as "a mythical animal ... with antlers and talons, able to walk, fly and swim. It has the power to gather clouds and create rain". Originally perceived as a snake-like animal, it has undergone many changes over the centuries to become the dragon we see today. It was meant to embody the grace and power of different animals, thus it is an amalgamation of parts: it has a deer's antlers, a tiger's eyes, a lion's nose, a bull's ears, an eagle's claws, a horse's mane, a fish's scales and a snake's body. For thousands of years it has been viewed as an almost divine creature, able to fly across the sky and rule the sea.

The image of the dragon started appearing on artistic and household objects

during the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.), especially on bronzeware and jade. This trend continued for several hundred years, with the addition of dragon images carved on the ends of roof tiles. Later, the dragon was taken as the symbol of emperors, who believed they were incarnations of the dragon with an inherent right to rule the land. The Song Dynasty (960-1279) saw the dragon officially become the domain of the imperial court, and was emblazoned on all kinds of objects, usually in yellow, the colour of gold.

For the ordinary citizen, however, the dragon symbolized much more than imperial power. To them it represented good fortune, and was even seen as a deity that one could pray to in times of natural disasters such as floods or drought. The legend of the Dragon Kings of the four seas are further examples of the mighty power of the dragon in the eyes of the Chinese people.

Today both abstract and realistic representations of the dragon can be found on an enormous range of objects, both antique and modern-day: on buildings, chinaware, teapots, bowls, pots, jars, lacquerware, embroidery, brocades and carpets, and can also be found carved on wood, stone, ivory, jade and metal.

The history of the phoenix is similar to that of the dragon. It is also a mythical animal created out of people's imaginations, an amalgamation of several kinds of winged creatures. The phoenix began as a totem in very ancient times, when people tended to take images from nature as their totems.

Legend has it that the phoenix was meant to marry the *huang*, another species of the phoenix, but by mistake was paired up with the dragon. This was supposed to have happened during the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.), and ever since then the phoenix has represented the female and the dragon the male.

Like the dragon, phoenix images first started appearing regularly on bronzeware, then during the Qin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.) was additionally used on buildings and jade objects. Also like the dragon, during the Song Dynasty the phoenix was declared an imperial design to be used only by empresses and imperial concubines, for only the phoenix could be a match for the dragon. Thus the phoenix image soon started showing up on architecture, pottery, brocade and other arts and crafts within the imperial palace, eventually becoming synonymous with happiness.

However, the phoenix was not confined to the imperial court for long, and soon was used by ordinary citizens as a symbol of purity, joy, true love and peace, an expression of their ideals and aspirations about life. For centuries the phoenix has been used on embroidery, batik, window paper-cuts, shoes, clothes and in many ethnic peoples' arts and crafts.

No longer the privilege of rulers, both the dragon and the phoenix have become symbolic of good fortune, representing between the two all the virtues that one could possess. Perhaps one can even say that these two creatures embody the true spirit of the Chinese race.





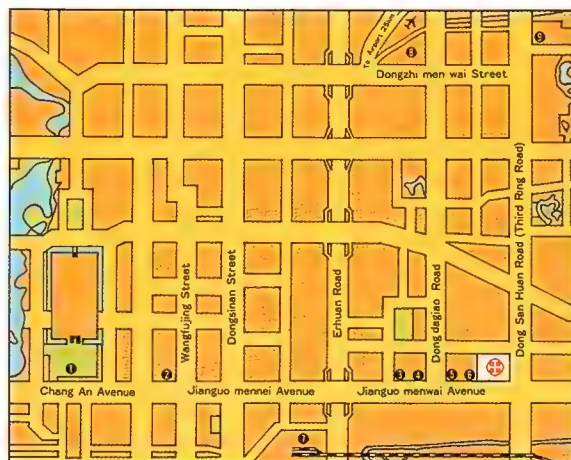
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*Day breaks at Tengke Village.*

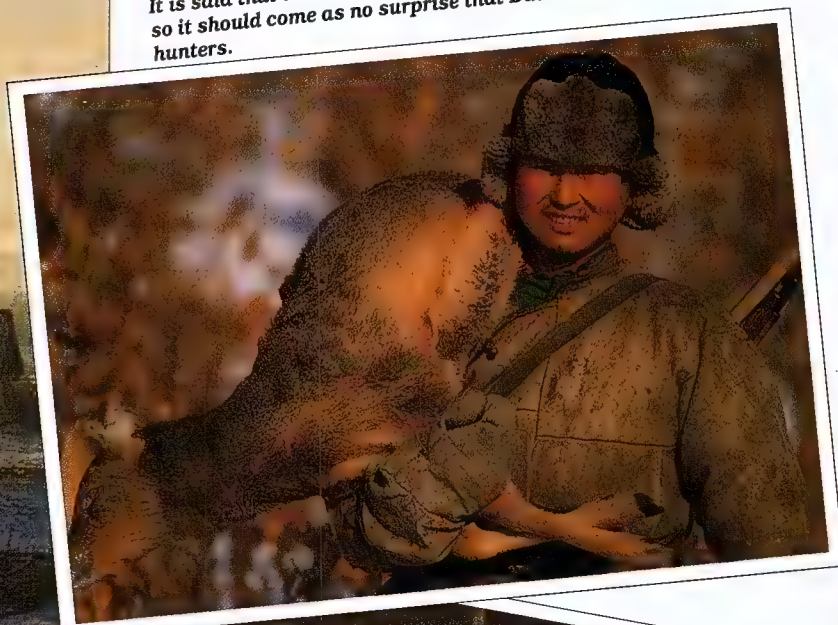


# Descendants of Hunters and Fairies

## — North China's Little-Known Daur People

PHOTOS & TEXT BY CHENG WEIDONG

*It is said that the Daur people are descendants of hunters and fairies, so it should come as no surprise that Daur men are excellent hunters.*



*Lying comfortably in the cradle, this baby enjoys its mother's sweet lullaby.*



*Homemade sleds provide the best pastime in the severely cold winters.*



*This carved door is a good example of the Daur people's artistic skills.*



*Boys in Tengke Village are ready to play hockey with their handmade sticks. One must be innovative in these icy climes.*







**D**aur, pronounced *dawo'er* in Chinese, means "pioneer" in the Daur language. True to their namesake, this small ethnic group was the first to reclaim the Great Northern Wilderness in northernmost China. Numbering just over 120,000, the Daurs live scattered in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Heilongjiang Province and the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Their already small population seems even thinner in these three vast areas, which make up about one third of China's total land mass.

### The Daur Community in Morin Dawa

The largest Daur community is in the Daur Autonomous Banner (equivalent to a county) of Morin Dawa, which is on the left bank of the Nenjiang River. With an area of 1,194 square kilometres and bordering on the Hinggan Mountains in the north and the Nenjiang River in the east, the banner is in the southeast of Hulun Buir League (equivalent to a prefecture) in Inner Mongolia.

The tale concerning the origin of the Daurs is a romantic one. Long, long ago, there lived at the foot of a quiet mountain an old, sick mother and her two sons, who were excellent shots. Every morning the two brothers went hunting and in the evening they returned with their catch. Upon their arrival at home one evening, they found the house had been cleaned and tidied up, which surprised them greatly because it was far beyond the ability of their mother. The same thing happened day after day until one day the brothers resolved to find out what actually occurred during their absence. That morning they went out of the house as usual, but stole back and peeped into the house. They saw two fairies floating into the house. The fairies took off their feather coats and began to do the housework. The brothers then took the feather coats away and set them on fire, so the fairies could not return to their heavenly abode. The fairies married the brothers and bore them sons and daughters, who are believed to be the ancestors of the Daurs.

The starting point of my visit to the Daurs was Beijing, from where I took a train to Qiqihar, then changed to the train to Nehe. I got on a coach to Nirji, the seat of the Daur Autonomous Banner of Morin Dawa. Nirji, in the Daur language, means "prosperity" and as a matter of fact, this town seemed to be thriving. The temperature in the town was below -20°C even in the daytime. Few pedestrians could be seen; I did not know whether this was due to the severe cold or the tiny population. Everywhere, however, I saw smoke rising from the chimneys of gabled roofs, one of which I stayed under for several nights.

My next stop was a village called Tengke, which when I arrived was covered with thick snow. The village is home to nearly 10,000 people and borders on a mountain as well as a river, an important feature of Daur communities. The houses in the village are in straight rows facing south, and most of the courtyards of the houses are surrounded by patterned wicker fences. The doors and windows are, without exception, engraved with landscapes or Chinese characters meaning happiness, wealth and longevity. The windows are pasted with paper and the house is divided by a partition into a central room and an inner room. In the west, south and north of the inner room are heated brick beds common in the north, which keep the room warm and on which people sleep. I was especially interested in the cradles that hung from the roof beams. These finely-made, traditional objects now serve as ornaments in quite a few homes.





*A quietly busy farmhouse gives off clouds of cooking smoke.*



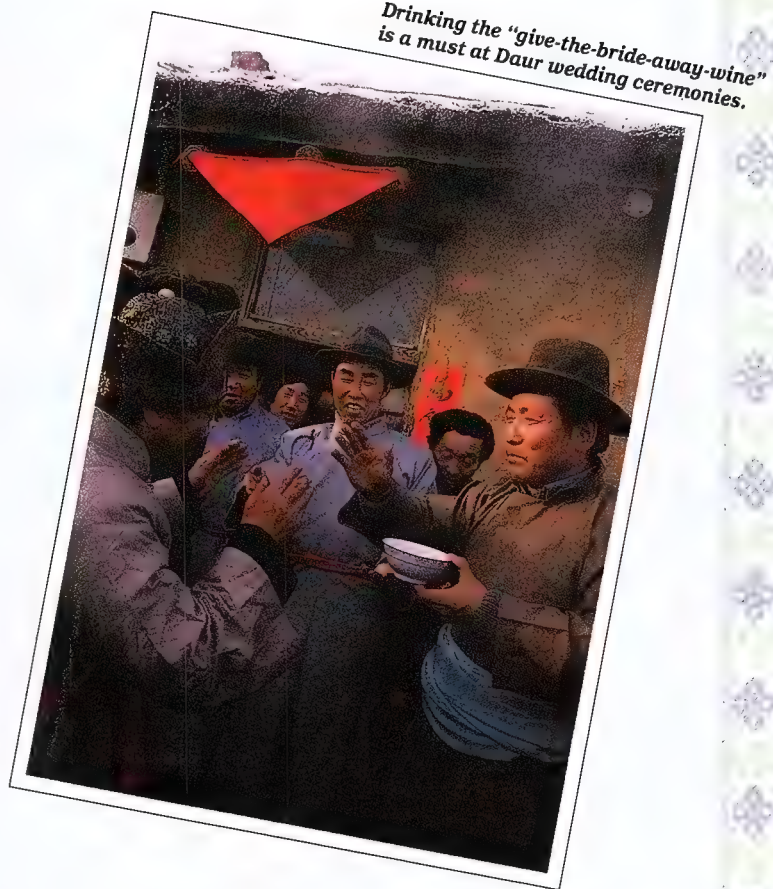
*Relatives and friends get together to congratulate the newlyweds.*



*After the simple but festive wedding ceremony, a happy family is formed.*







Drinking the "give-the-bride-away-wine" is a must at Daur wedding ceremonies.

### Lives Full of Art

The cradle is just one example of the importance of art in the life of the Dairs. It is enclosed by thin boards made of plum tree wood. The slightly upturned head of the cradle is lined with leather, and its outer surface is decorated either with patterned cloth pieced together from colourful odd bits, or a piece of embroidery with designs of birds, animals or flowers. The bottom of the cradle is made of boards, and all kinds of designs are painted on the rim. The bottom and the rim are painted with tung oil, which makes them both shiny and waterproof.

Above the head of the cradle there is a canopy consisting of gauze draped over a semi-circular wicker stand, which protects the baby's face from mosquitoes. Across the joint between the head and body of the cradle a string made of animal tendon is hung with shells, coins and colourful glass beads which jingle as the cradle rocks. The rhythmic sounds and creaks of the boards lull the baby into a deep sleep.

The Dairs also like to do carvings of scenery and animals on their doors, window frames and on the surfaces of boxes, pails and chests made of birch bark. The Dairs, like many other minorities, are fond of embroidery. Their quilt covers and pillowcases are embroidered in geometric designs, auspicious symbols and folktale figures. They employ flat stitches, appliqué and the "folding" method of embroidery, the latter a characteristic technique of their works.

Hockey is the favourite sport of the Dair men. According to the *History of the Liao Dynasty* (916-1125), hockey was popular even then among the Khitan nomads, from whom the Dairs are thought to be descended. The tradition and long history of playing hockey has earned the Dair Autonomous Banner of Morin Dawa the title of China's "home of hockey".

### Dair Marriage Customs

Monogamy is practised among the Dairs and it is common for a man from a different clan to marry into and live with his wife's family. After such a marriage his children will take his surname, but he is obliged to work only for the family and cannot inherit property from his wife's family.

On the day of the wedding ceremony, the groom has to set off to fetch the bride as soon as the sun rises, while his family members, relatives and friends stand outside his house waiting for the bride. As soon as the bride in her red wedding gown arrives in a car, firecrackers are let off.

According to custom, when a Dair girl gets married, her hair has to be combed with a part in the centre. She wears gold, silver or jade earrings, bracelets and rings, and an embroidered tobacco pouch is attached to the front of her dress. She does this because it is the custom with the Dairs to offer each other a cigarette to show respect when they (men and women alike) visit their friends or relatives.

The bride is then helped out of the car and walks slowly to the bridal chamber, where the red silk veil is removed and she drinks some wine. Male and female guests are arranged around different tables, and during the feast the bride and the groom offer cigarettes and wine to the guests one by one.

The groom's family is especially busy that day. They have to fill and set pillows out for the newlyweds. When the bride's family is leaving, the groom's family members have to present them with wine and pork, and stop them to drink wine (they call it "block-the-way-wine") until they are quite drunk. The young guests might "steal" some glasses, dippers and plates to ensure their own happy marriage.

Translated by Chen Jiaji



**Below: The Weihe River as it weaves its way through the green highlands of Tianshui (by Qiu Xiaoming).**

**Inset: This former Qing Dynasty fortress now lays in ruins (by Bai Tao).**



# Tracing

ARTICLE BY SHI BAO XIU





# the Source of the Weihe River

**T**he Yellow River is well-known as being the cradle of Chinese civilization, but its largest tributary — the Weihe River — is unfamiliar even to Chinese people. Spreading a map of China before us we see that the Weihe River originates from Niaoshu Mountain in Weiyuan County, Gansu Province, and

passes through the county seat of Longxi and Baoji Gorge. It then enters the 400-kilometre Qinchuan Basin in Shaanxi, from where it connects back up with the mighty Yellow River to flow into the Bohai Sea. The Weihe River is more or less on a horizontal axis with the Yellow River.





*Built according to the terrain, fortresses come in many styles (by Bai Tao).*



*This procession is passing by the foot of Daxiang Mountain in preparation to welcome the Goddess of Mercy (by Li Shengli).*



*These elderly people are carrying placards which read: "Peace in the Nation; Tranquillity to the People" (by Li Shengli).*

To those familiar with Chinese history, this is the central axis of Chinese culture, on which the ancient capitals of Chang'an, Luoyang and Kaifeng lie. In the 5,000 years of Chinese history, numerous dynasties have prospered and declined on this horizontal axis — likened sometimes to a long river of time.

Having been born on the Weihe River and having lived along its banks for a great many years, I have had plenty of opportunities to tour the tributary to its upper and lower reaches. However, I have long had the ambition of tracing the river to its source, but somehow it never materialized.

### **Our Journey Begins**

One summer my dream finally came true, when eight of us — all inhabitants of the banks of the Weihe — chartered a medium-sized bus in Baoji, just across the border in Shaanxi, and started our journey. We took

the northern Gansu-Shaanxi route, passing Qianyang Range and the Guanshan Mountain pastureland, then went southward along the mountain ridge from Zhangjiachuan. We approached Tianshui, an ancient town of military importance, along the upper reaches of the Weihe. The river's banks in Tianshui were once a battleground during the Three Kingdoms Period (220-280). The Chinese strategist Zhuge Liang fought against the famous general Jiang Wei on many occasions in this exact location. Of course, since then a very long time has passed and people no longer fight one another — their only concern nowadays seems to be making a living. The peaceful river provides that, being a great source of material wealth to the surrounding farming population.

At the southernmost tip of the highway I saw the waters of the Weihe meandering in the broad valleys of Gansu Province, shim-

mering under the sun. We had little time to visit the famous Buddhist Majishan Grottoes, and instead kept on climbing the flat-topped ridge, which led from Tianshui to Gangu. The uninterrupted rain accompanying us now ceased and the sun peeped out from a mass of clouds. Our car came to a sudden halt. Opening the car door, we were greeted by a walled city towering against the green range, providing a fine contrast to the blue sky and white clouds. The city looked both dignified and mysterious — seeming to be an apparition from times long ago.

### **Ancient Fortresses Now in Ruins**

I asked an old man looking after his flock of sheep what sort of city it actually was. His reply was that this was no city, but rather an old fortress built in very ancient times by inhabitants of villages nearby. The people were continually harassed by both bandits







lorn, a distant reminder of the past. In fact, throughout the loess ranges in the upper reaches of the Weihe River — from Tianshui to the river's source — we saw many more ruins scattered here and there. In Weiyuan, for example, we visited a military fortress once used by Wang Shao, a famous general in the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127) who resisted the nomadic tribesmen from the north. This historic landmark too now lay in ruins with only its wall bases still intact.

### **Daxiangshan — An Ancient Holy Mountain**

Having descended more than 60 kilometres down the ridge, the highway crisscrossed its way until it reached the southern bank of the Weihe River and the town of Gangu. This is the hometown of Jiang Wei, the general from the Three Kingdoms period. An extremely beautiful stone mountain called Daxiang lies in the suburbs of Gangu, outside its southern city gate. The mountain is in the shape of a fan with five small peaks, on each of which is a temple complex. The high walls of the temples are linked to the towering cliffs that rise to the blue sky, making them appear as if they were truly detached from this material world.

On the lonely cliffs of the mountain is a large clay Buddha over 20 metres high. An image of Tathagata, it has whiskers and a rather friendly-looking countenance. The mountain has certainly earned its name of Daxiang, or Big Statue Mountain, and is as well-known as Maiji Mountain in Tianshui. It is a treasure-trove of Buddhist grottoes and stone carvings dating back to the early years of the Northern Wei Dynasty (386-534).

Originally a sacred Buddhist spot, Daxiang Mountain was greatly influenced by Taoism and Confucianism throughout history. Confucius, Laozi, Guan Yu (the God of War), Bhaisajyaraja (the Buddha of Medicine) and Songzi Niangniang (the goddess who gives sons to barren women) all have a home on this mountain. Priests of various faiths came to settle on the mountain and at one time the temples were built so close together that they were only a few steps apart. It must have been a very busy and lively place back then.

### **Religious Beliefs Still Strong**

At the foot of the mountain were many small stores selling candles, incense, food and sundry goods. The most noticeable items were black boots and red shoes made of paper, the latter only fit for a woman with tiny bound feet. The hawker told me that the black boots were meant to be given to Guan Yu, the God of War. It was said that the god inspected villages beyond the city gate at night to protect people from the scourge of ghosts, devils and bandits. The small red shoes were for the goddess, who had bound feet, to whom people prayed if they wanted sons. The faithful followers believed that both these gods were the busiest immortals, al-

*A strange sight close to the Weihe River is created by wind-eroded rocks (by Giu Xiaoming).*

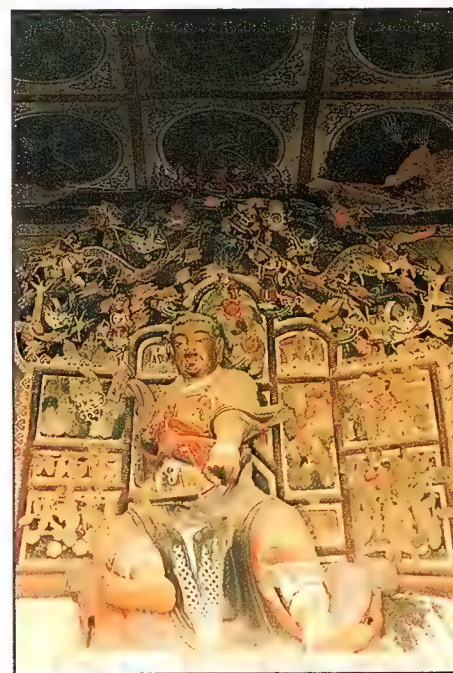


*Relatives carry paper figurines during a funeral procession (by Li Shengli).*

ways running here and there to help people, therefore boots and shoes were the most appropriate offerings for them.

On our second day in Gangu, we saw a ceremony to welcome the God of Rain, who is supposed to be in charge of rainfall in the region. Early in the morning we hurried to the foot of Daxiang Mountain and mingled with the crowd that was standing in front of a sedan chair. When we lifted the silk screen we saw, to our surprise, Avalokitesvara, normally represented as Guanyin, the Goddess of Mercy, seated inside. It seemed that in Gangu, Guanyin played a dual role, representing both the Goddess of Mercy and the God of Rain.

Shortly the welcoming crowd began their part of the ceremony. Elderly people carried placards painted with the words: Peace in the



*Fuxi, one of the first human beings, is wearing armour from the Middle Ages (by Bai Tao)!*

Nation and Tranquillity to the People. Other placards read: May the Weather Be Favourable. The Goddess of Mercy in the sedan chair was carried on the shoulders of eight able-bodied men, who made their way through the centre of the column. By the roadside the farming population, both male and female, went down on their knees to pray and show respect.

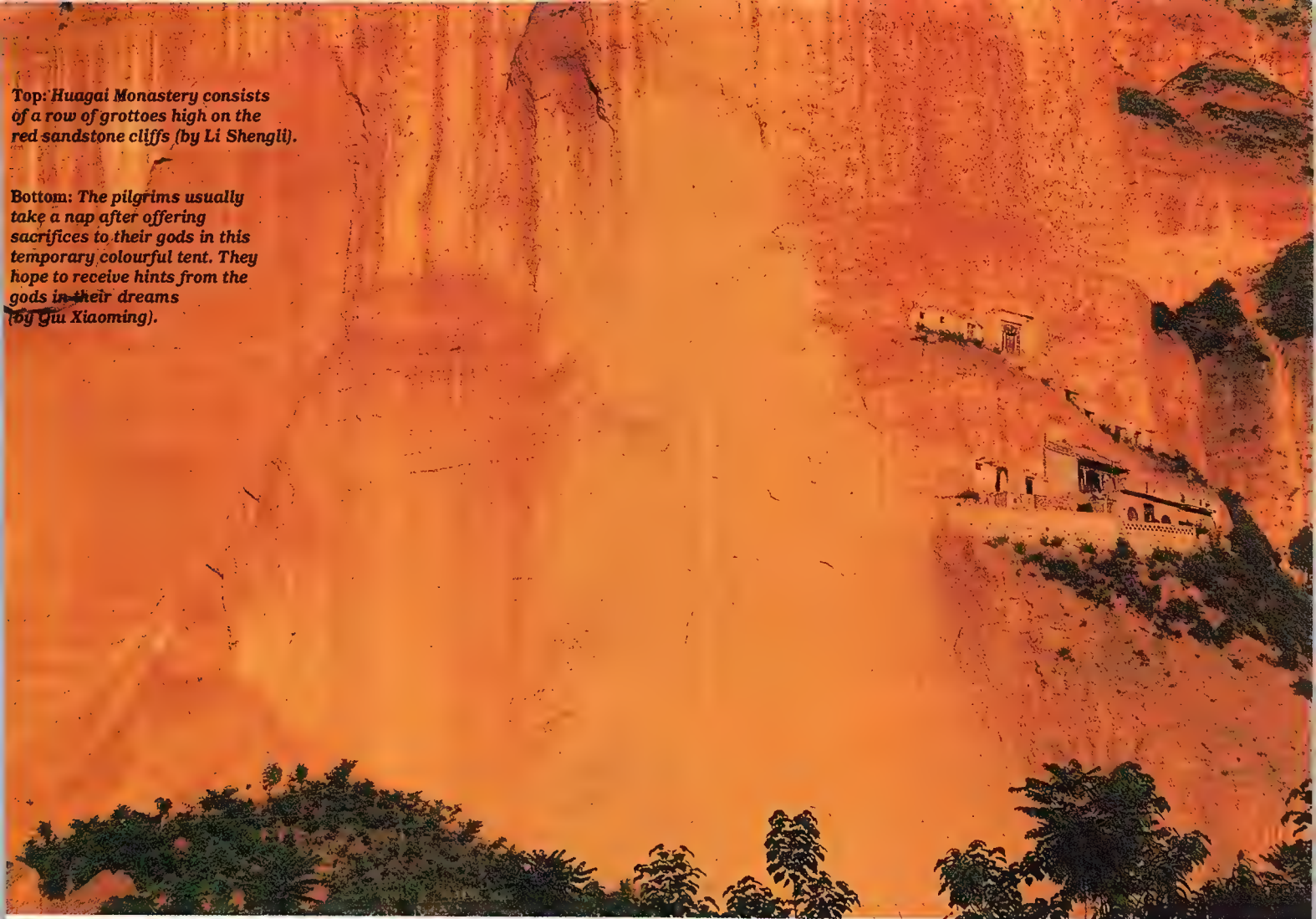
### **Red Cliffs and Strange Grottoes**

We left Gangu and continued our journey westward along the turbid Weihe River. On the south there appeared a steep sandstone slope formed by faulting, which extended over a distance of several kilometres like huge red elephants, heads and tails linked together. On the broad and perpendicular red cliffs were



**Top:** Huagai Monastery consists of a row of grottoes high on the red sandstone cliffs (by Li Shengli).

**Bottom:** The pilgrims usually take a nap after offering sacrifices to their gods in this temporary colourful tent. They hope to receive hints from the gods in their dreams (by Jiu Xiaoming).





*The people living along the Weihe River are polytheistic. They believe that mountains, rivers, rocks and trees are the reincarnations of their gods (by Giu Xiaoming).*



*In June, during the slack season in farming, the quiet maintainous paths are crowded with pilgrims (by Giu Xiaoming).*

several open caves. They appeared to be interrupted at places but were arranged in an orderly manner. Obviously not natural caves, they turned out to be part of a complex of the famous Huagai Monastery Grottoes. A series of hanging ladders linked one grotto with the next, which made climbing a bit hazardous. We found in these caves seated statues of the Monkey King and Nezha, a young mythological hero who turned the sea upside down, as well as clay statues of Tathagata, the Goddess of Mercy, and Fuxi, the legendary first ancestor of the Chinese people.

After leaving the sandstone cliffs we drove westward along the highway to the left of the Weihe River. Peaks and high ranges stood along the banks, and the broken cliffs towering above the mountains were dotted with holes, much like the grottoes in the Huagai Monastery. While quietly enjoying the landscape on both banks of the river, we suddenly

arrived in Wushan County. We saw even more grottoes there, such as the Shuiliandong (Water Curtain Cave), Mutisi (Wooden Ladder Monastery) and Chandiansi (Buddhist Temple) grottoes. Linked together in a row with Maji Mountain, Daxiang Mountain and Bingling Monastery, they give clear testimony to the fact that Buddhist sculpture came to China's Central Plains via the Weihe River valley.

### **A Happy Funeral**

Outside Wushan County we came across the funeral procession of a recently deceased old man. The courtyard was decorated with colourful streamers, a house, a T.V. set and a refrigerator, all made of paper. In front of the paper house stood a paper automobile — a Crown (Toyota). These were all things that the dead man never enjoyed in this life, but were now provided for by his children to ac-

company him to his grave. When the funeral service began, the man's children and grandchildren filled half the courtyard. To my surprise, not one person was weeping, something very unusual for a Chinese funeral. Here, when a person lives to a great age such as this man's 82 years, his death is no longer a sad event.

The short cut to Longxi from Wushan along the Weihe River was blocked by a caved-in road caused by a heavy downpour; therefore we had to make a detour. This involved climbing more mountains and hills but it provided an excellent opportunity to enjoy the mountain scenery and deep valleys. The mountains and peaks were all loess covered and planted with hemp, beans, alfalfa, wheat and oats grown by the local farmers. After descending the mountains we came back to the valley of the Weihe River arriving in the county town of Longxi.







*The magnificent sight of a temple fair on the mountains along the Qianhe River, a tributary of the Weihe River (by Giu Xiaoming).*

### **Longxi's Cured Pork**

Longxi was once a commandery — an administrative unit before the Qin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.). During and after the Han and Tang dynasties it assumed military importance as a garrison town. The Wei Yuan Pavilion, an example of architecture from the Song Dynasty (960-1279), still stands today in the city centre in spite of several earthquakes in the past 1,000 years. Although this historic landmark is impressive indeed, what I really remember about Longxi is its famous cured pork.

I discovered this delicacy while strolling around the town's market place, where many restaurants are found. I was attracted by the delicious smell coming from the meat on the shelves of one of the stalls. On inquiry I discovered that it was pork, cured about half a year ago, cooked and ready for the table.

The shop owner told me that the cured meat was a specialty of the upper reaches of the Weihe River, with Longxi's being the most famous.

Cured meat from Sichuan, Yunnan or Guizhou comes in slices, but cured Longxi meat comes in one large piece, soaked in a large jar and then cooked. In this way the meat can be sliced according to the buyer's wishes, a custom typical to the Northwest. Given to big things in big sizes the people in the Northwest have always been known for their exuberant spirit and forthrightness. I had a bite of the cured pork and found it very tasty indeed. We bought some and then went to a suburb of Longxi where we sat at the foot of an ancient hilltop fortress and ate and drank to our hearts' content. This impromptu picnic, as we enjoyed the spring breeze and the beautiful mountain scenery, is one of my fondest memories of the trip.

### **Wei Yuan, a Blend of Old and New**

After our picnic we continued to Wei Yuan, whose landmark is an arched wooden bridge with a wooden house built on top — a rather strange phenomenon. In Northwest China, such wooden bridges are quite rare, most being found in the south. A stone tablet at one end of the bridge indicated that it was built during the Ming Dynasty Emperor Hongwu's reign (1368-1398). The small town of Wei Yuan sits between the Qingyuan River and the Yuhe River, the two sources of the Weihe.

Along the sandy shores of the river Chinese theatrical performers were practising their art with swords and spears, while also hawking medicinal tablets and pills. Cows, horses, sheep and pigs were roaming about or lying in the streets. Fashionable Shanghai dresses were on sale, as were cigarette lighters and sun goggles bearing Hong Kong



trademarks. Cotton quilts were being made by workers from Jiangsu and Zhejiang. The atmosphere was one of calmness and tranquillity, in which the ancient was mixed with the new.

The next day we were taken by guide to the headwaters of the Weihe — the Qingyuan River and the Yuhe River. We saw loess ridges and ravines, extending endlessly northwest. An unusual sight caught my eye — on top of every loess hill were mounds of earth, with pointed tops like Mongolian yurts. White triangular flags with scriptures written on them were flying on top of these strange-looking mounds. I thought they were perhaps a local form of worship to heaven and one's ancestors, however my guide informed me that they were sacrificial objects meant to invoke rain for the Weihe.

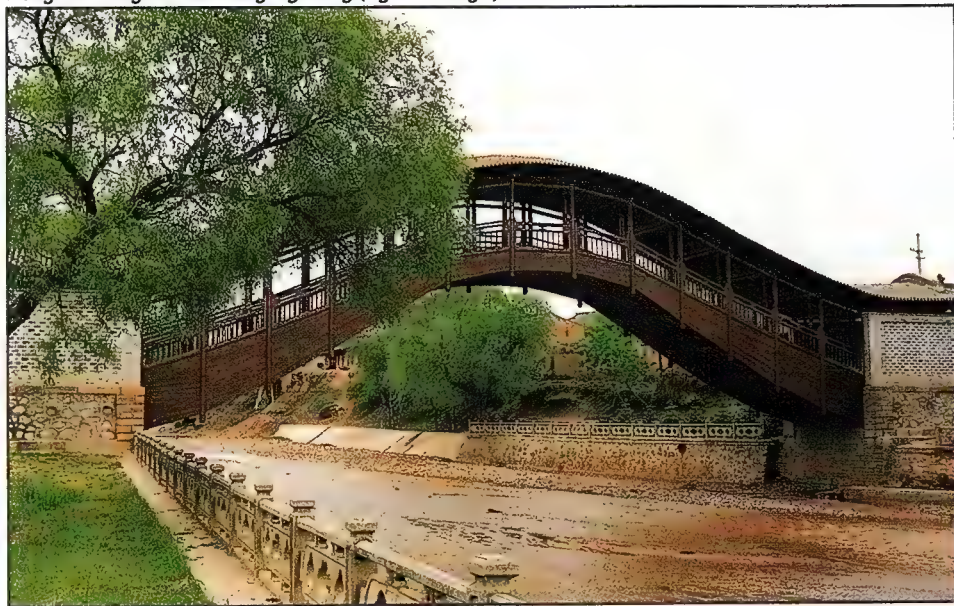
Our next stop brought us to a long mountain crest called Niaoshu Mountain. We advanced along a narrow downhill road and came to a small temple, which looked like an ordinary Chinese house but seemed to have been built only recently. The original temple lay in ruins with dilapidated walls and overgrown weeds. I was told by the guide that the original temple was King Yu's Temple, dedicated to the memory of Yu, a legendary hero in medieval times who made his contribution to history through several successful water conservancy projects. Whenever there is a drought, villagers come from as far as 50 kilometres away to worship Yu, hoping that he will cause rain to fall. Yu probably never imagined that he would be made the Dragon King — the God of Rain — after his death. The name given to the Yuhe River is apparently related to Yu's engineering accomplishments.

The guide took us next to a white poplar forest below King Yu's Temple. Pointing to a stone hole the size of a bowl, he said this was the Pinzi Springs, so named because the three outlets of the springs are arranged like the Chinese character *pin* (品). Ancient literature has records of the Pinzi Springs as being the traditional source of the Weihe, but out of the three outlets only one, now dried up, remains. It seemed incredible to me that this tiny outlet could have been the source of the 700-kilometre Weihe River. In fact, we found out later that this was a myth, and it was actually only one of the tributaries of the Weihe.

### **Qingyuan River — the Authentic Riverhead**

Having rested for a while we continued our journey down Niaoshu Mountain towards the river channel of the Qingyuan. I was greatly surprised to see a beautiful and luxuriant river valley in drought and poverty-stricken western Gansu, which is situated in the middle of a loess plateau. Flocks of sheep and cows were grazing in the field and the tiled roofs of houses peeped out from behind white poplar trees. There was a rich crop of young maize as well as fields of beans, looking more like

*The first bridge spanning the Weihe River is south of Weiyuan and was built during Emperor Hongwu's reign in the Ming Dynasty (by Li Shengli).*



*Green Nangu Mountain has many small streams that converge to form the Qingyuan River — the authentic source of the Weihe River (by Shi Baoxiu).*

fertile and rich South China than the harsh northwest.

Our car drove uphill along a road parallel to the Qingyuan River. We entered a narrow mountain valley just as dark clouds began to gather in the sky. The peaks of neighbouring Nangu Mountain quickly disappeared from view and the rain began its assault. Our car wheeled round and round in the mud and was in danger of slipping into the gully, so we abandoned our car and walked to the mountaintop. The Qingyuan has many branches in its upper reaches, all coming from wooded gullies. The water of the river was clear and teeming with life: weeds, shrubs and ferns grew abundantly between the river banks and the river itself. Judging from the abundant volume of water and the long, broad river



*The Pinzi Springs were referred to as the headwater of the Weihe River in ancient Chinese literature (by Li Shengli).*

channel, Qingyuan was without doubt at least a major tributary. Although it does not possess the historical glory and fame of Pinzi Springs, it nonetheless was indeed the source of the Weihe.

During my journey to the source of the Weihe River I saw many strange sights, ancient places and interesting customs of the local inhabitants seldom seen by the rest of the world. Most travellers tend to prefer exploring along the world-famous Yangtse and Yellow rivers, due to the many sights of interest along the way. Yet medium and small rivers, too, have their charm, even though they may not be famous. Properly explored, they might one day also become tourist attractions.

**Translated by He Fei**



# Tourist Guide to the Source of the Weihe River

TEXT BY SHI BAO XIU

Tracing the source of the Weihe River is not merely a geographical investigation. Each of the routes leading to the source runs past a great number of scenic areas, with sites such as ancient grottoes and temples. You can choose whichever of the following options that appeals to your individual taste.

The itinerary usually starts in Baoji, located to the west of Xi'an, the capital of Shaanxi Province. There are three routes from Baoji to Tianshui in southeastern Gansu, at which point one must head upstream following the river. The three routes to Tianshui are as follows.

**The South Route:** This route is called the Qinling Ancient Path Tour, and one must travel by car, first along the Chencang Ancient Path, which threads through Dasan Pass and climbs over the watershed of the Qinling Range. Then head southward along the Jialing River to Fengxian County and turn towards Liangdang and Huixian counties, where you will see the Qishan Ancient Path. Then proceed to Tianshui via the Majijshan Grottoes.


**The Central Route:** This route takes you on a tour of the Weihe Valley by train. Very soon you enter Baoji Gorge between the Qinling Range and Longshan Mountains. The 100-kilometre-long route, which passes through scores of tunnels and bridges, provides passengers with magnificent scenery of moun-

tains and the Weihe River. A four-hour ride brings you to Tianshui Station.

**The North Route:** Called the Longshan Scenery Tour, this route is by bus, from which one can view the plateau landscape of one section of the Qianyang Range. As the bus descends the range, it heads north skirting the Qianhe River, a tributary of the Weihe, to Longxian County. It then goes westward into the Longshan Mountains, an extension of the Liupan Mountains. Spiralling up 40 kilometres along the mountain path, the bus brings you into the Guanshan Nature Reserve. After crossing the boundary to Gansu Province, one comes to Zhangjiachuan Hui Autonomous County, from where one proceeds south to Tianshui.

**The Tracing the River Source Tour:** After arriving at Tianshui from any of the three routes mentioned above, one can first visit the Majijshan Grottoes nearby, Fuxi's Hall and other sites before crossing the plateau to Gansu. On the way one can see the ruins of many ancient fortresses. The Daxiang Mountain Grottoes are about two kilometres from the town. Then, going westward along the southern bank of the Weihe River, one arrives at the Huagai Monastery Grottoes. Travelling further west to Wushan one rides past a broken cliff eroded by the elements. Wushan boasts a series of grottoes and the Wushan

Hot Springs. A bath in the springs, it is said, can prevent diseases and is beneficial to the health. From Wushan, proceed northward, cross the Wushan River and climb up towards the loess region, from where one can see old fortresses in various shapes standing on mountaintops. The road then turns back to the banks of the Weihe River, the location of the ancient city of Longxi. At the city centre stands Weiyan Tower, dating back to the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127). Leaving Longxi for Weiyan, the road skirts the Weihe River. Shouyang, one of China's four ancient towns, can also be seen on the way.

Visitors can find lodging at the Weiyan government guesthouse. From here one can ascend Niaoshu Mountain to see the Yuhe River, the Pinzi Springs and King Yu's Temple. A special hired car, however, is needed to negotiate the dirt road. The situation is the same for a tour along the Qingyuan River to the south. In the mountain area there is only a winding path, and one has to travel by foot to see the fascinating forests and grasslands on the top of the mountain. The Qin Great Wall, built during the Warring States' Period (475-221 B.C.), lies in ruins 15 kilometres along the north bank of the Weihe River. 

Translated by K. V. Ku







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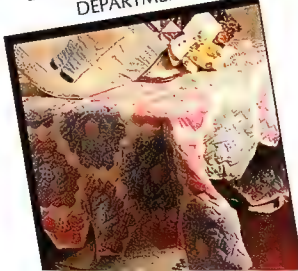
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*Having a drink outside the Oriental Restaurant is a very pleasant way to spend an afternoon in Stanley (by Chan Yat Nin).*



# The Myth Of Stanley

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY ALEX TAI



*Elderly inhabitants enjoy the cool breeze under the shade of a tree (by Chan Yat Nin).*





*Even in winter, visitors enjoy sunbathing on Stanley's beaches.*



*In summer, windsurfing and boating are favourite pastimes for both tourists and residents.*

*Many foreigners have made Stanley their home.*



One chilly afternoon I met an old friend for a tour of Stanley. Almost everybody in Stanley knows my friend Pierre Morkel, who has been a resident there for 25 years, longer than some of the local residents. Stanley is his home, and he can tell you virtually anything about the area.

As the sun began to set, we started strolling down Stanley Main Street. We passed a French restaurant, two pubs and a rattan furniture shop before we stopped in front of a southern European-style restaurant, where we felt a soothing breeze blowing in from the sea. It was so quiet and romantic that we felt as if we were standing in a small Italian or French town by the seaside.

### The History Behind Stanley

Few people are aware that Stanley was actually where the majority of the population of Hong Kong first lived, therefore it was naturally the first place on the island to experience growth and development as a town.

In 1841, shortly after the British acquired sovereignty of Hong Kong, Stanley was listed in a gazette as the capital town with 2,000 inhabitants, the biggest town on Hong Kong Island at the time. The total population on Hong Kong Island then was 4,350, and at Victoria City (today's Central District) there was only a temporary shelter for about 800 people. Stanley was in fact the heart of the city then, where all major activities took place.

There are two different stories about how Stanley got its Chinese name — Chek Chu (Red Pillar). The first story started around the late Ming and early Qing period, when there was a huge kapok (silk cotton) tree in the area. The tree, however, lost most of its branches and leaves in a storm, leaving a straight tree trunk with a glowing red colour which, from a distance, looked like a tall pillar pointing up to the sky. People eventually started calling the area after it.

The other story has to do with the mountain range on the northern side of the Stanley peninsula. The red earth that covered the mountain range radiated a fiery red glow every morning with the rising sun. The smooth curvature of the slopes, which resembled a thick round pillar, plus the bright red earth, gave birth to Stanley's Chinese name.

### Reminders of the Past

We continued to walk down Stanley Main Street along the beach and came to the Tin Hau (Goddess of the Sea) Temple, after passing some small village huts with tin roofs and walls. The temple building was done in the old southern Chinese architectural style, with an open

yard surrounded on four sides by buildings. An ancient bronze bell made in the 32nd year of the reign of Emperor Qianlong (1767) of the Qing Dynasty and a 98-kilogramme sliding weight from a steelyard are inside. Other antique items in the temple include the wooden signboard above the doorway inscribed with the name of the temple, put there during the reign of Emperor Jiaqing (1796-1820) of the Qing Dynasty, couplets carved on vertical wooden boards and iron incense burners. On the replica of the original commemorative stone slab of the temple are eight large characters describing the town as an important lookout and gateway to the sea. The inscription says that Stanley once held a strategically critical position as the entrance to the East Lamma Channel, the southern gateway to Victoria Harbour. For centuries all vessels leaving China for the West had to pass through Victoria Harbour, which explains the increasing numbers of fishermen who steered their junks to the area and settled down. The 98-kilogramme sliding weight in the Tin Hau Temple is proof that there was already active trade involving sizeable transactions more than a century ago.

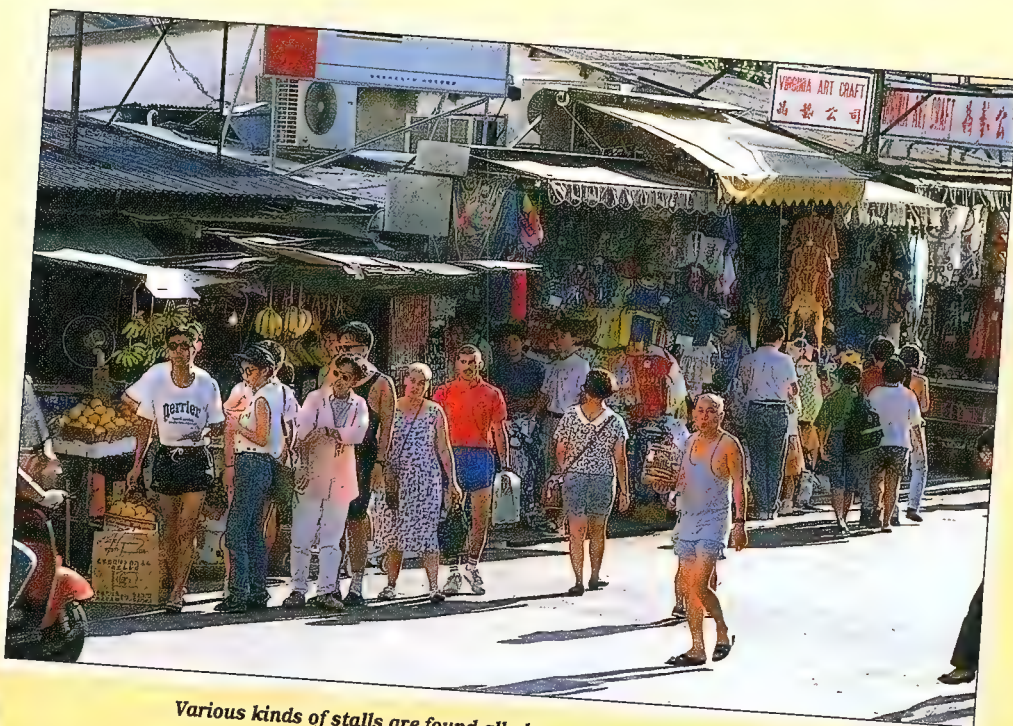
Even today, one can still see fishing boats berthed in the waters offshore, with those residing on board preparing meals or doing their laundry. What is simply a daily routine for the families living on the boats has in recent years become a favourite photographic subject for tourists.

### Pubs and Restaurants on the Beach

I cannot remember when it was that I first visited Stanley. All I can recall is that it was summer and the water looked so cool and refreshing that I took a dip. Since then I have come back to Stanley nearly a dozen times in different seasons to see the area in all its varying faces. What I have always enjoyed most about Stanley is the tranquillity and the "holiday mood" it instils in visitors. It is this special characteristic that makes it particularly memorable.

It seemed that my feelings towards Stanley were also shared by many other visitors, who appeared so carefree and relaxed. Everybody, whether they were office workers, Westerners arriving in their automobiles or on motorcycles or families of four picnicking on the beach — all were enjoying themselves at restaurants or scenic spots.

The main street in Stanley is lined with various types of restaurants. However, unlike in other parts of Hong Kong, most of the pubs and restaurants here have open fronts that face the deep blue sea. My favourite restaurant is the Stanley Oriental, located about mid-way on Stanley Main Street. Although it is not a luxurious restaurant, its relaxed atmosphere resembles that of a southern European resort. On the



Various kinds of stalls are found all along Stanley Main Street (by Chan Yat Nin).

ree and easy Stanley, it seems anything goes.





*This stand selling brass objects does a very good business.*

*The banyan tree that rises from these roots is several hundred years old, and has become a shrine for Stanley residents.*



*Relaxing by the seaside is something everyone who comes here does at one time or another.*



street level are two round tables sitting under large parasols and, rain or shine, they are always occupied by customers who want to escape the hustle and bustle of city life. Sometimes they sit there and chat, or just enjoy the cool sea breeze, for as long as four to five hours.

The restaurant has four floors with a spacious patio overlooking the sea on the second and third storeys. The floors and walls are covered with Portuguese tiles and the patio is fenced in with antique-style iron railings. Hanging from the ceiling are old-style electric fans, which add a touch of nostalgic charm to the dining area. I can still recall the rhythmic beating of the waves against the shore and the soft whistle of the sea breeze one evening while dining here.

While some people are fond of eating in restaurants, many others enjoy eating at the food stalls which congregate behind the Stanley Main restaurants. From simple dishes such as stir-fried vegetables to more expensive courses such as steamed garupa, a wide variety is always on offer. After dinner one can have the pleasure of strolling along the beach or take a rest in one of the pubs, where customers sip wine or beer and watch the passersby.

### A Haven for Windsurfers

At the other end of Stanley Main Street are Stanley Main Beach and St. Stephen's Bay. There is nothing extraordinary about Stanley Main Beach. It is neither as wide as Repulse Bay nor is its water as clear as that off beaches in Sai Kung. It is, however, more easy to reach. There are barbecue areas for visitors' use, and next to the main beach are the

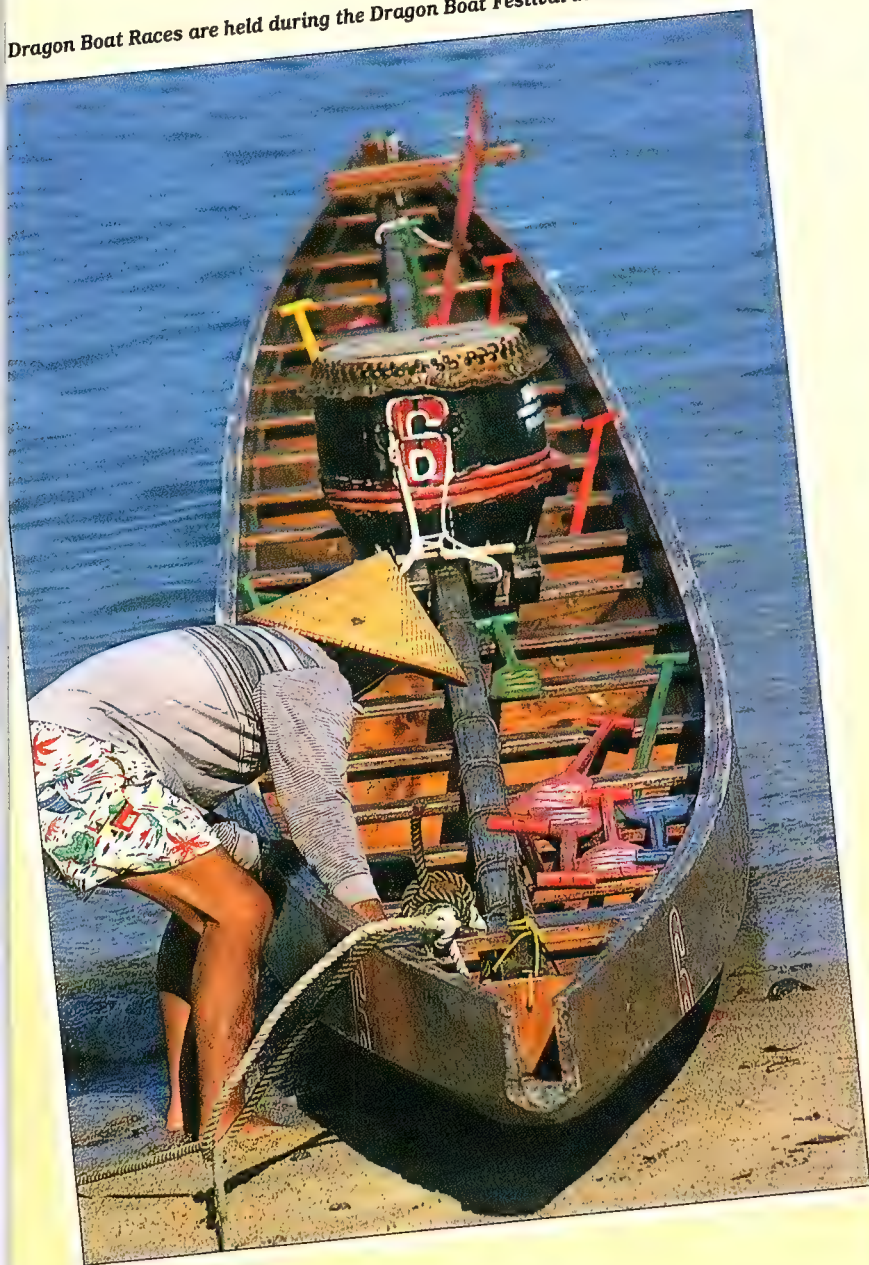
Hong Kong Windsurfing Association and the Hong Kong Sea School. One sees a phenomenal number of windsurfers during holidays, gliding on the water and showing off the colourful sails of their windsurfers. According to one windsurfer who is a frequent visitor to Stanley, besides the fact that it is close to the city, windsurfers choose to come to Stanley because the wind blows strongly here but the waves do not get very high. Some windsurfing fans have even moved their homes to Stanley so that they can enjoy water sports whenever they like.

Like other visitors to Stanley, I spent most of my time during the first few visits browsing through the crowded shops on Stanley Main Street which sell custom jewellery, paintings, leather goods and snacks. When I first passed by these shops, I felt as if I were suddenly transported to the busy streets of Tsim Sha Tsui or "drapery street" (a narrow footpath lined with drapery stalls, now demolished) in Central. Although the stores here may not be old themselves, one can sometimes find unusual items, such as Mao Zedong badges produced during the "cultural revolution", antique Soviet-made watches and out-of-print novels. Every time I visited Stanley, I would tell myself that I was just going to look but not spend any money. However, not once did I succeed in coming away without being lured into buying something.

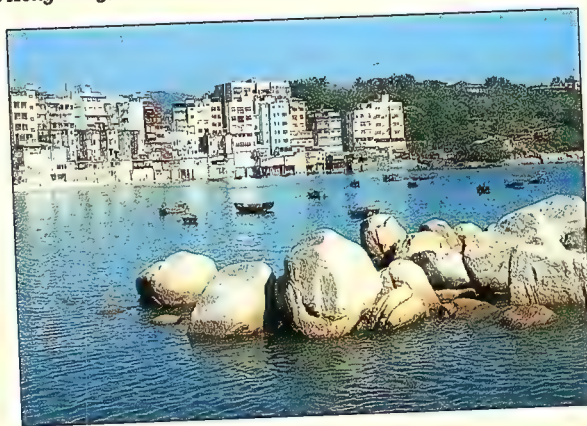
### A War Memorial Cemetery and a Famous Prison

On another trip to Stanley, Pierre and I visited the Cape Collins War Memorial Cemetery near St. Stephen's Bay. I learned that Stanley not

*Dragon Boat Races are held during the Dragon Boat Festival in Stanley every year.*



*Though Stanley once was an important fishing village in Hong Kong, now only a few fishing boats remain.*



*This beautifully sculpted Door God is at the entrance of Stanley's Tin Hau Temple.*



only was one of the places on Hong Kong Island where the British first landed, but was also where the last batch of British soldiers were stationed before they were beaten by the Japanese army when they invaded Hong Kong during World War II. At the time, the Japanese troops marched to Kowloon from the New Territories and crossed Victoria Harbour to cut off the southern part of Hong Kong Island from the other areas. Stanley was the last defensive front for the British army. For three days the fierce battle between the two enemies continued, until the Japanese finally declared victory. The several thousand British soldiers were either killed or captured by the Japanese, making the encounter one of the bloodiest in Hong Kong's history. There are a thousand granite tombstones here, carved with the names and dates of birth and death of the buried. Looking closely one sees that most of the soldiers died in December of 1941. The tombstones, lined up in an orderly manner, stand amidst patches of green grass as though they are in a park. One can hardly imagine the bloodshed that took place in the area only 50 years ago. The cemetery has now become a favourite des-

ination for young lovers, who take photos of themselves with the picturesque cemetery as backdrop.

Not far away from the cemetery is the Stanley Prison, another must for tourists who come to Stanley. Stanley Prison is well-known among local people because it is where die-hard criminals such as the drug king Limpy Ho used to be locked up, and where the midnight butcher Lam Kuo Wan still is jailed. The prison, fenced off by tall walls, is of course off limits to ordinary visitors, who instead of being discouraged seem to find it all the more intriguing. The mystery surrounding the prison creates a totally different mood from the bright, relaxed and open atmosphere one experiences in the rest of Stanley.

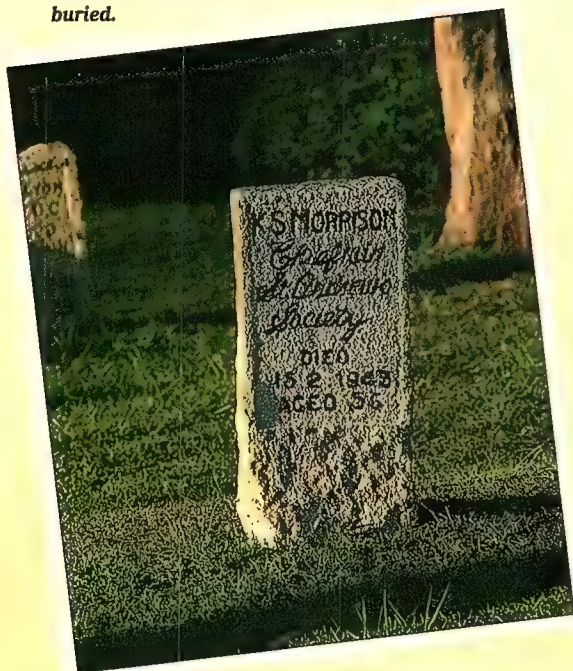
"Stanley is a showcase of the harmonious blending of the old and new and the East and West. That is exactly what makes it so unique and attractive," said my companion.

When I asked Pierre whether he would ever leave Stanley, he said, "Stanley is home to me. Stanley is my Italy!"

**Translated by Ursula Yeung**



▼► Some visitors come to Stanley especially to see the memorial cemetery near St. Stephen's Bay, where British soldiers are buried.



Many Hong Kong residents drive to Stanley for a day of fun (by Wong Kin Man).

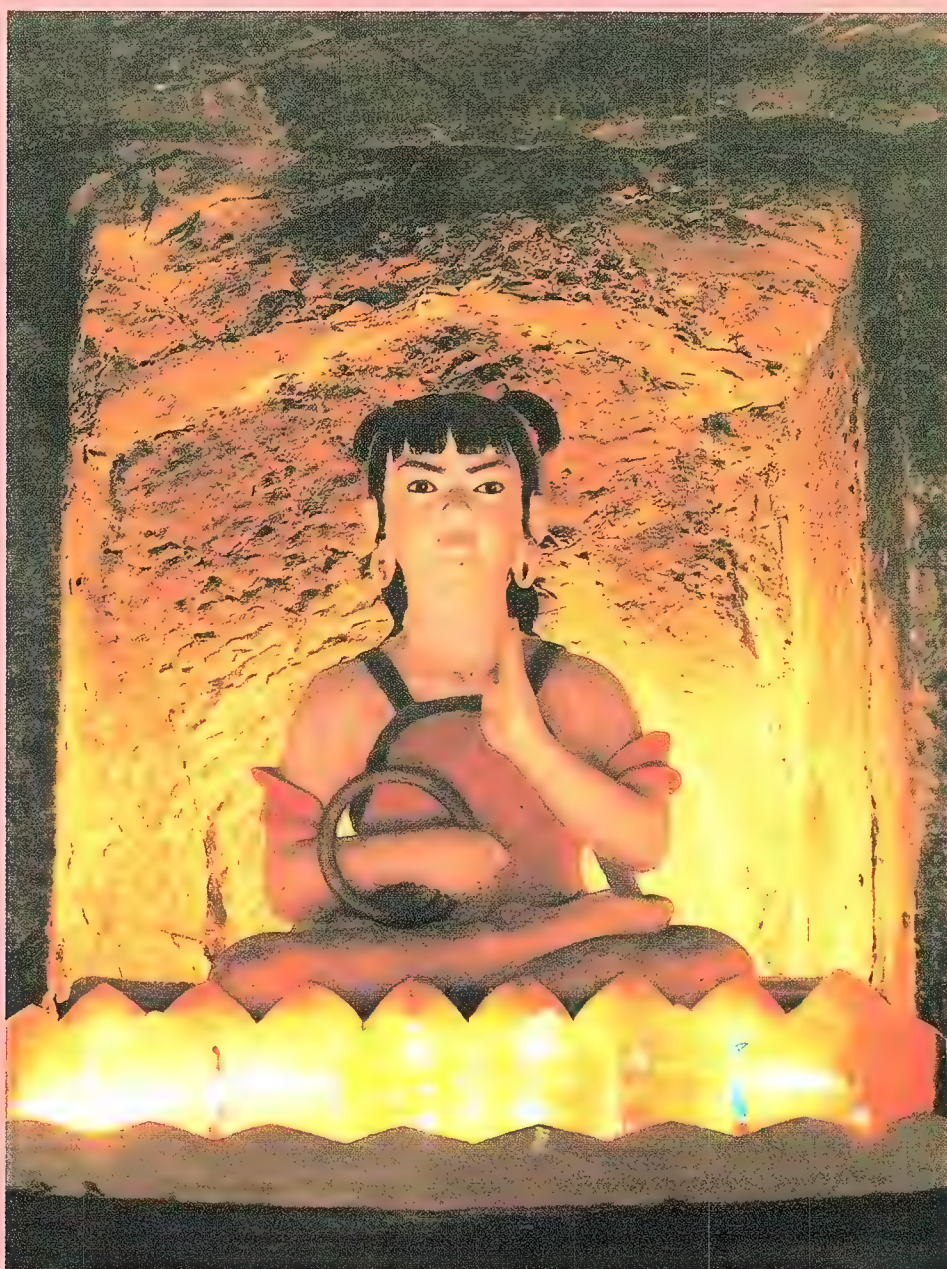


# Following in the Footsteps of Nezha, the Sea God

PHOTOS & TEXT BY ZHAO YONGGUI

In China the novel of mythical tales called *Creation of the Gods* is known to all, and Nezha, one of the protagonists in the novel, is a household name among Chinese people. To find out more about Nezha, I made a trip to Sichuan.

It is said that in ancient times there were floods everywhere, the Sichuan Basin was a sea of water, and the people there had no means of making a living. According to legend Nezha, who always upheld justice and combatted evil, took his Universal Ring and Fire-Tipped Lance and rode on his Wind-and-Fire Wheels to vent his anger in the East Sea. He pulled out the tendons of the wicked Dragon Prince, which made his father, the Dragon King so frightened he ordered the flood to retreat 5,000 kilometres eastward within one night. That was when the 5,000-kilometre-long Yangtze River first appeared.

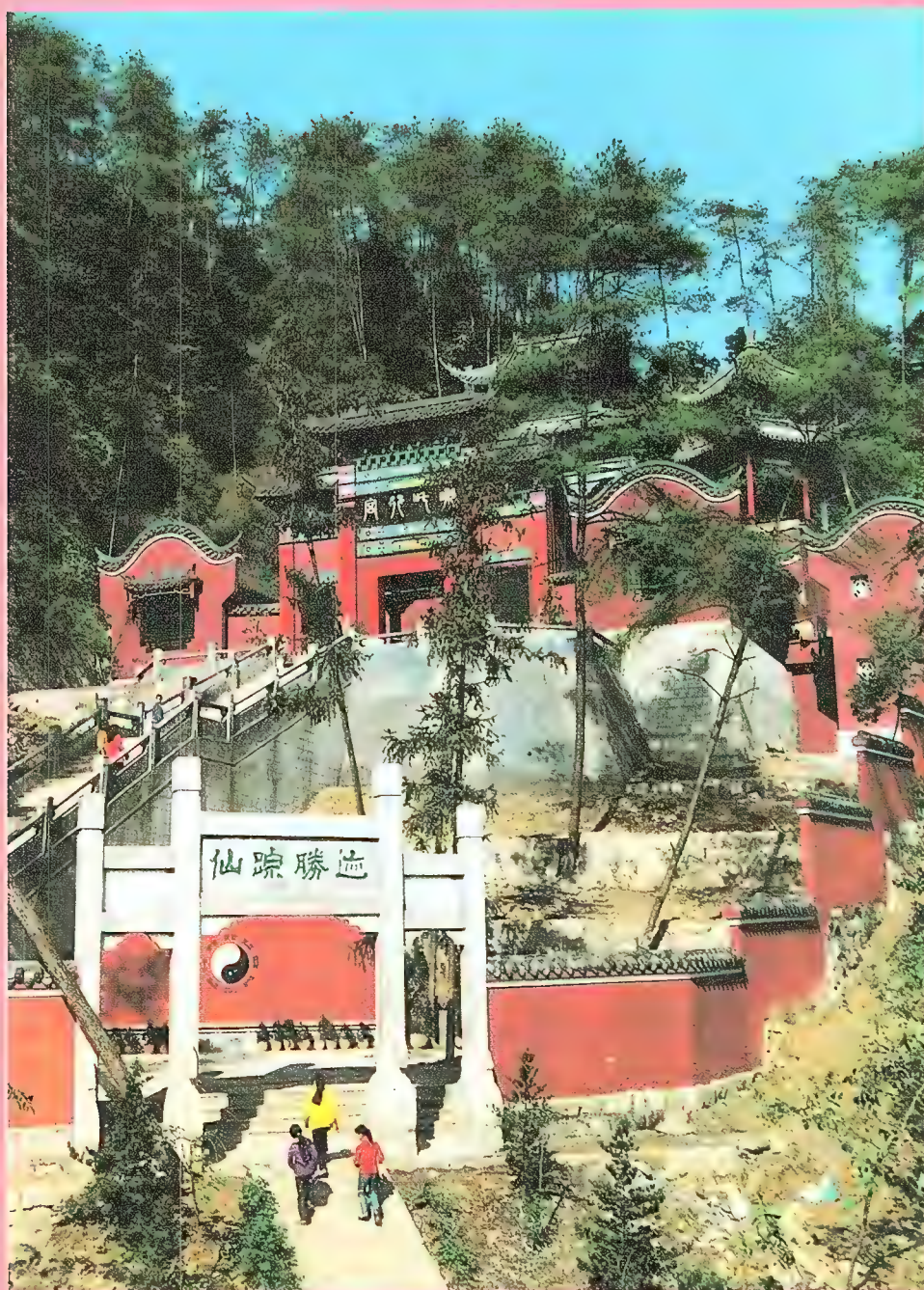


The Nezha Cave is over a thousand years old. Within it worshippers pray to the statue of Nezha, who sits cross-legged on a seat in the shape of a lotus flower.





Behind the Immortal's Archway is the symbol of Taoism, which visitors look at or touch when they walk past.



The newly-constructed Nezha Temple, built into the side of the mountain, is magnificent.

Nezha was described as a hero who possessed both the extraordinary magical powers of an immortal and the emotions of a mortal, a righteous prodigy who had the innocence of a child and the courageous spirit of an adult. He became an object of worship in ancient times, as people hoped to rely on his boundless strength to conquer natural calamities. Even today, in the minds of some people Nezha is still the image of the Sea God, able to vanquish demons and monsters and exorcise evil spirits.

Legend has it that Nezha was born at Chentang Pass in present-day Nanguang Town in Yibin City, Sichuan Province. He was the third son of the Pagoda-Holding Heavenly King, Li Jing, who was under the Jade Emperor. After he killed the Dragon Prince of the East Sea, the Dragon Kings of the Four Seas reported the case to the Jade Emperor and held Nezha's parents responsible for the matter. In order to prove that his parents were in no way involved with his actions, Nezha killed himself and returned his body to his parents after cutting open his belly, gouging out his intestines and breaking his own bones. His body was buried beneath the Grand View Hall in the city, and his soul floated on the wind to Cuiping (Jade Screen) Mountain near Yibin, where he became a disciple of the Primordial Fairy, who then reincarnated him using lotus flowers and taught him martial arts. Later, Nezha cultivated a more moral character and went to a cave in the face of a sheer cliff on the peak of Jade Screen Mountain. He gained enlightenment and became an immortal, thus the cave became known as Nezha Cave. Later, in order to commemorate Nezha, people built Nezha Temple on Jade Screen Mountain.

If one views Nezha Cave from the southern bank of the Jinsha River, one finds that Jade Screen Mountain resembles a huge slumbering woman – some say an image of Nezha's holy mother. Over 4,000 metres long, she rests her head on the Minjiang River and stretches her feet out toward the Jinsha River, with her clearly visible features and plump breasts protruding in relief. Nezha Cave lies in her abdomen like an embryo.

However, the original Nezha Temple is no longer in existence. Last year, a reconstruction of an ancient temple complex was built on top of Jade Screen Mountain. From the foot of the mountain it

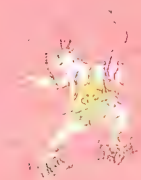




Many visitors are attracted by the murals on the walls of the Prince's Hall, which depict stories of how Nezha subdued the dragons.



Taiwanese visitors to Jade Screen Mountain make offerings of fruit and cakes and burn incense and candles in devout worship of Nezha, the Sea God (by Yang Jianchun).



the top are 693 stone steps. If any visitor finds the stone steps too difficult to climb, they can go up the mountain by car, following the winding road carved out beside the stone steps.

If you prefer to go up the mountain on foot, you will pass the Fairyland Archway and the Palace Gate and come to the Prince's Hall, the temple's main building, with double eaves and a unique architectural style. Inside the hall is a one-metre-high mound, on which stands the statue of Nezha riding his Wind-and-Fire Wheels and holding his Universal Ring and Fire-Tipped Lance. On the walls of the hall are murals depicting stories of how Nezha subdued the dragon.

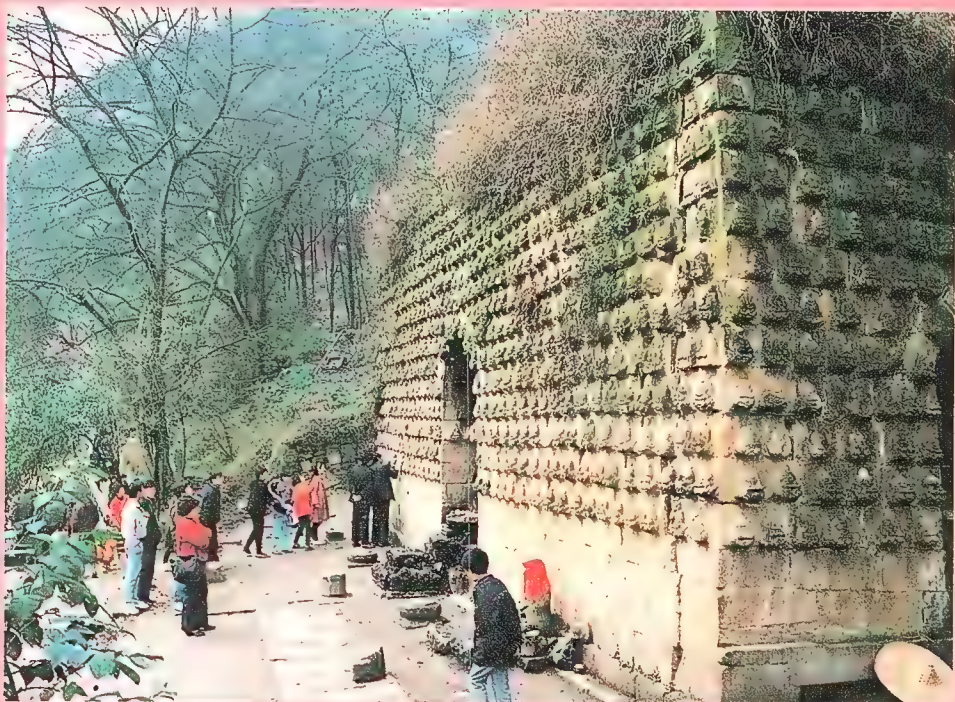
After leaving the Prince's Hall and turning a corner you arrive at Nezha Cave, which is about 2.2 metres high, 2.7 metres wide and five metres deep. At the entrance to the cave is a two-metre-high pagoda carved in relief. Inside the cave is a solemn-looking statue of Nezha, sitting cross-legged on a seat in the shape of a lotus flower. Illuminated by the lamplight from behind the statue, Nezha appears very lifelike.

As soon as religious believers see Nezha's statue, they vie with each other to present the image with flowers, burn incense, light candles and kowtow. The cave, empty and quiet a few minutes ago, is instantly filled with smoke and noise. This lively scene has begun to occur only in recent years. Most of the worshippers are visitors from Taiwan and Southeast Asia, with their own reasons for believing in Nezha. As they all live on islands or by the sea, fierce winds and raging storms often threaten them, and fishermen often encounter dangers on the sea. Therefore, they pray to Nezha for protection, so that they may avoid the perils of the sea and live a happy and peaceful life year after year.

Translated by Xiong Zhenru



According to legend, this section of the Yangtze River at Nanguang Town is where Nezha fought with the Dragon Prince. Rocks that some say look like dragon bones protrude from the river.



After climbing over 200 of the 693 stone steps, visitors arrive at the Thousand-Buddha Cliff, where they can rest and view the small rock statues.



# Steep Valleys Fashioned into a Golden Lake

PHOTOS BY TCHAN FOU-LI

TEXT BY KANG JIE

**B**locked by a huge dam at its upper reaches, the waters of the Jinxi River form a 60-kilometre-long reservoir which covers an area of 3,300 hectares containing 870 million cubes of water. From the natural beauty of its environs, who would guess it is not a natural lake? This reservoir, known as Golden Lake, is nestled in the southern part of the Wuyi Mountains in Taining County, Fujian Province.

As the boat slides forward over the lake surface, what comes in sight is a white waterfall which pours down from high ground between the Red Rock Peak and Kuilei Peak. There also stands a Buddhist temple, which, curiously enough, does not have any tile at all and seems to have had most of its work done by nature. It is an ancient temple built in the early years of the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279). Standing here quietly, the temple has borne silent witness to many social changes during its long history.

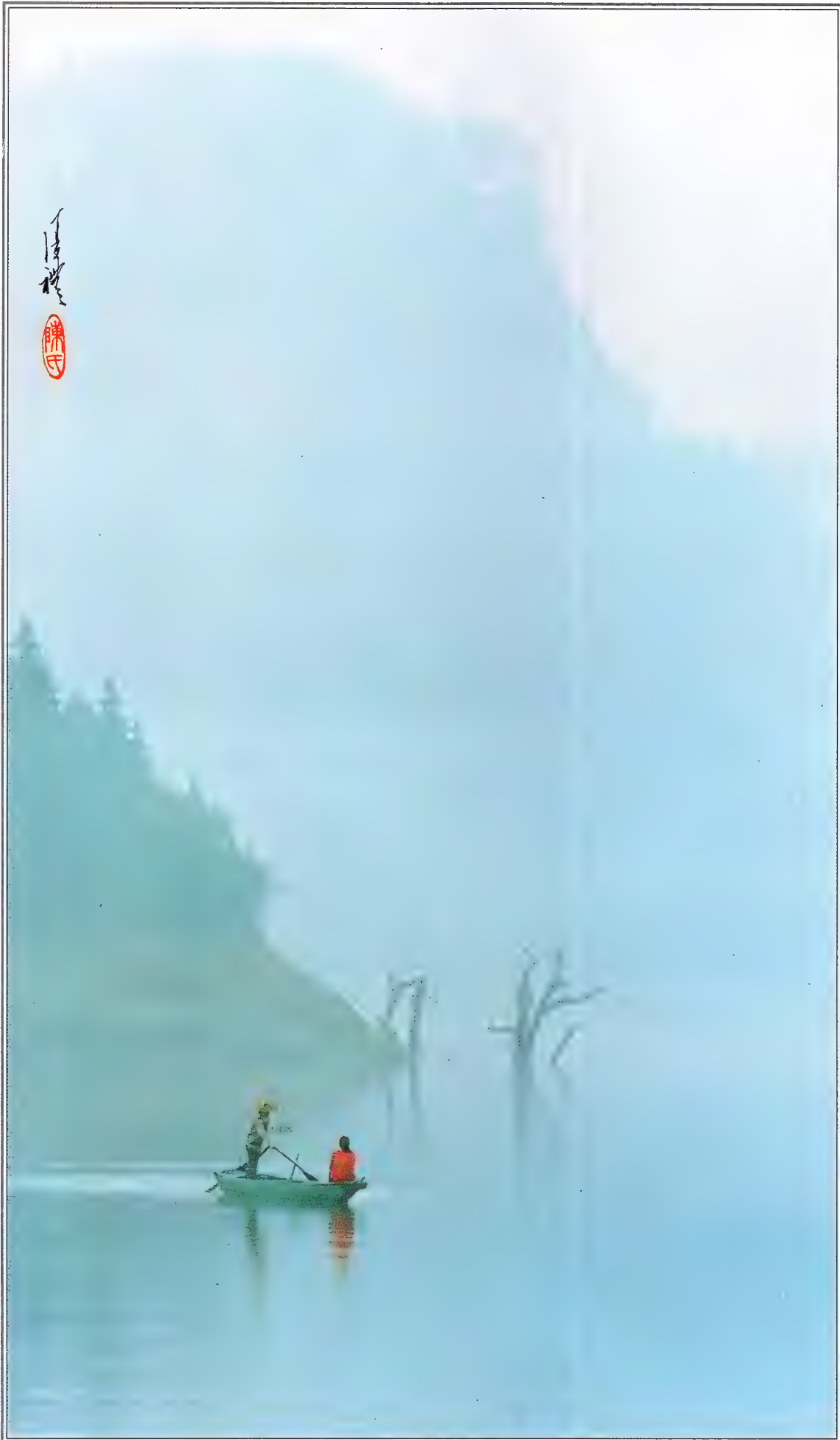
Arriving at the central part of the lake, we saw a 100-metre-high and 100-metre long crevice between two steep cliffs, which was known as the Sky Crevice on Earth but in fact is also a Sky Crevice on Water, for the water of the reservoir has inundated what was once land. When our boat was passing through the crevice, we looked up and saw overhead a linear band of the sky flanked by cliffs covered with orchids, bamboo and old vines — all imbued with a sense of liveliness.

There is a Second Sky Crevice beyond the first one. It is only half a kilometre long, but it has 24 curves! The boat moves easy along the curves cutting the water surface into rolling ripples. One could hear the echoes of voices there; this, combined with winding turns, makes one feel unsure where one is floating about.

When one looks up below the two sky crevices on water, the overhanging cliffs seem to be crashing down, making one feel slightly disoriented. There is a place known as the Third Red Cliff Under Heaven. When one glides slowly by the cliffs, where there is a wide space of water without overhanging cliffs, and where the fire-red cliffs covered with a rich green are mirrored in water, it seems as if the cliffs were plunging down from the sky.

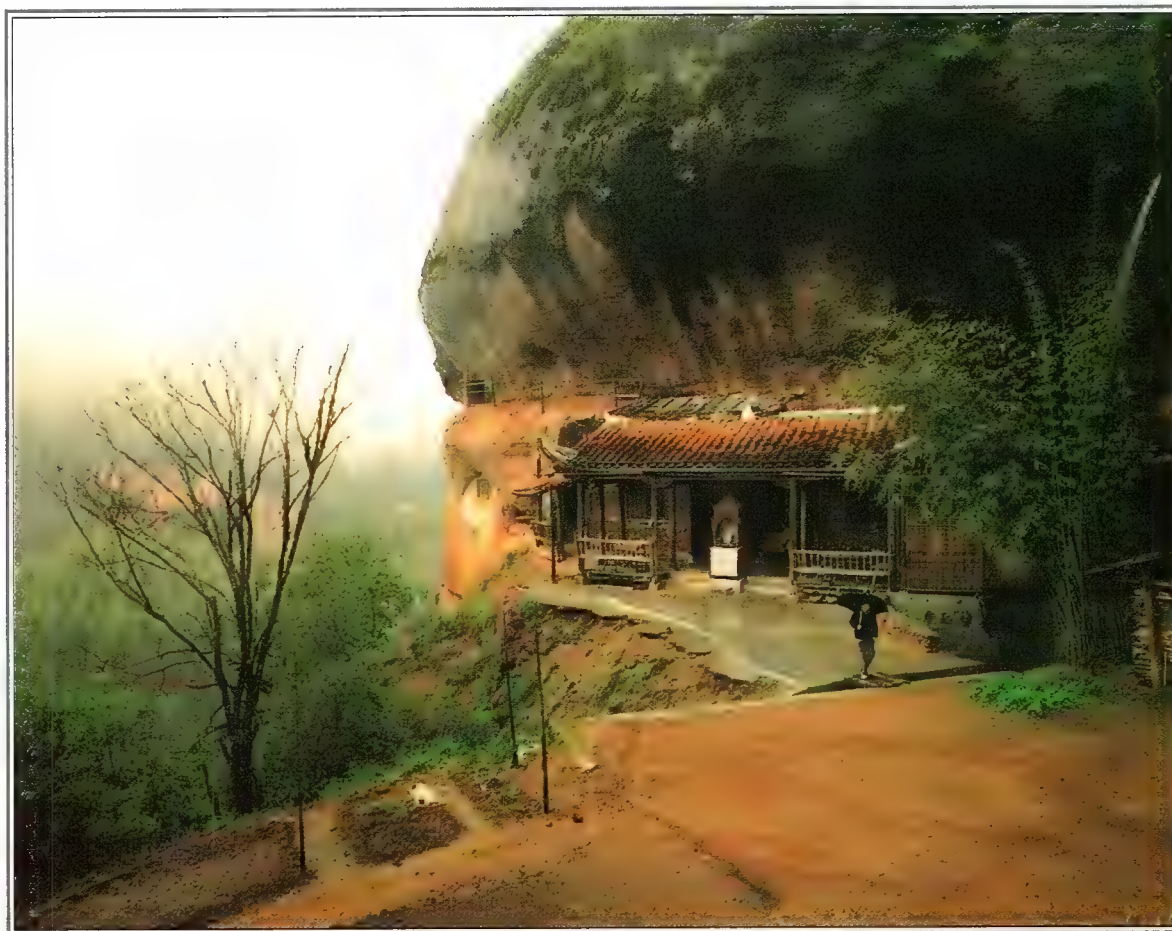
If one abandons the boat and takes a ramble along the lake, one encounters a few historical sites and famous



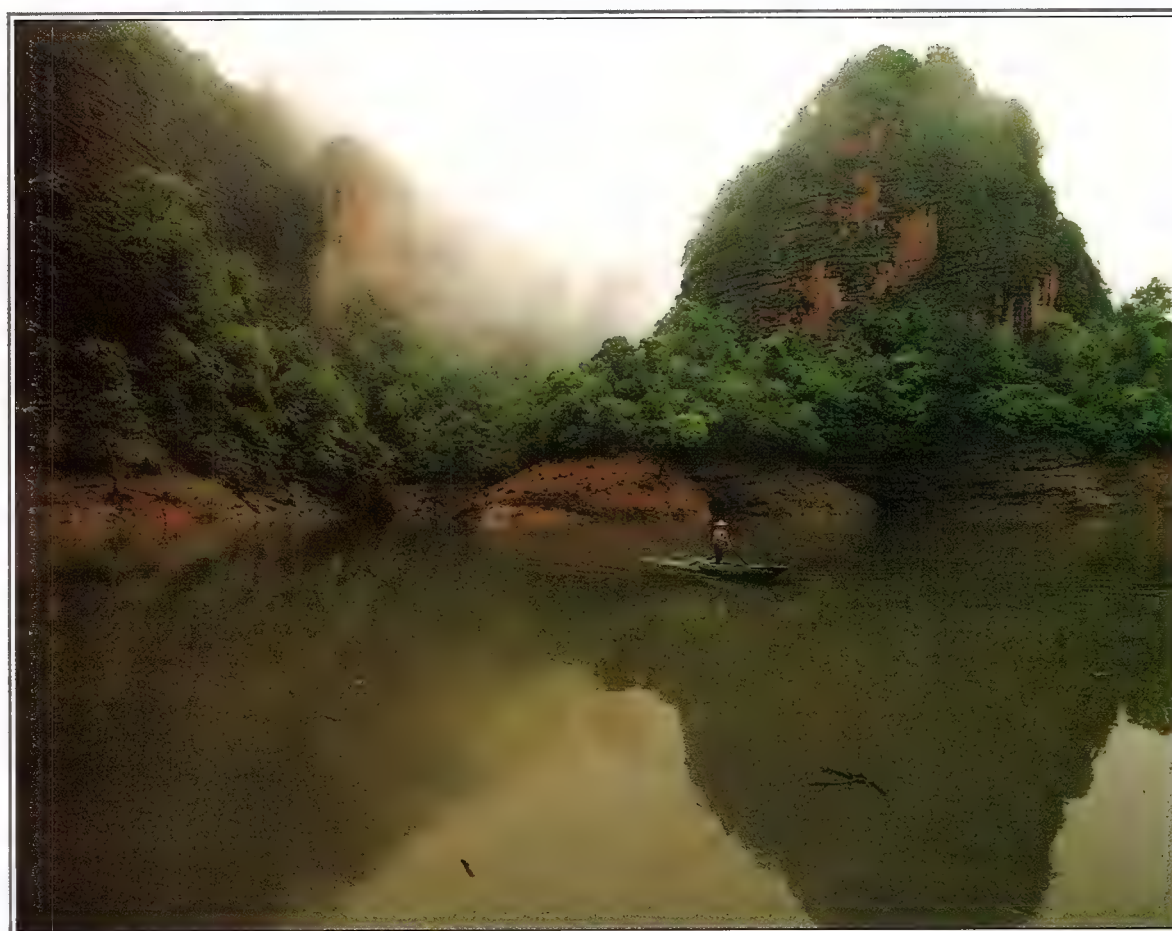


***A boat is sliding over  
the reservoir surrounded  
by shrubs and trees  
and shrouded by a mist.***



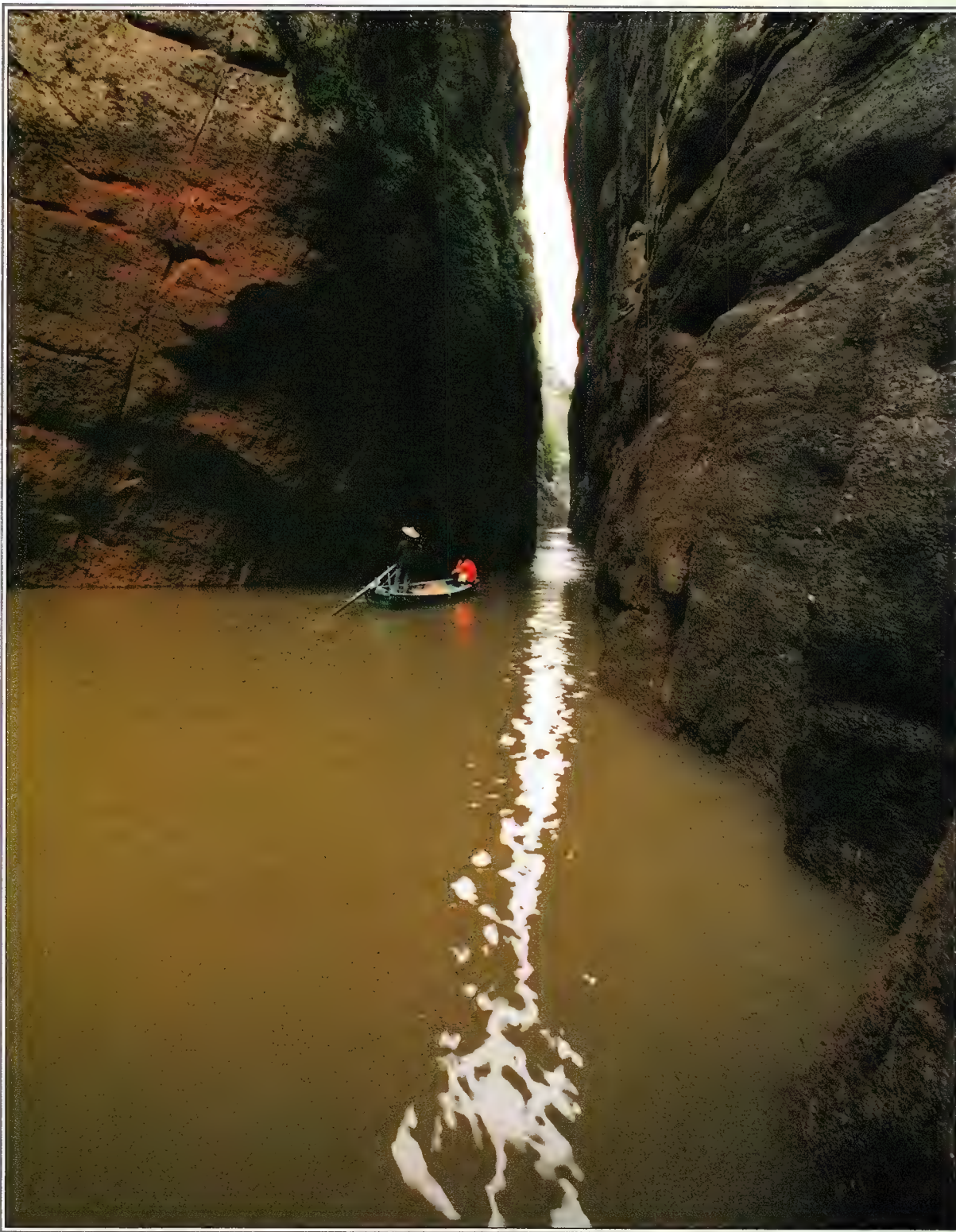


*There is a world of difference between the scenes inside and outside the cave.*



*There is nothing artificial about the abundant natural beauty of this reservoir.*





***Only a narrow opening above the boat allows the light from the sky to pass down.***

scenic spots. At the lake side there is a peak called Cat Peak, also known as the Cat-Like Animal Rock. Formed by three sharp rocks, it looks like a cat squatting on top of the peak and gazing into the distance with its two ears turned up.

Built into a natural cave amidst the hanging cliffs stands Ganglu Temple, narrow inside but having a wide entrance, which, built along the uneven rocks and supported by a single wooden column, seems rather precarious when one looks at it.

The green mountains, clear water, mysterious caves, beautiful rocks, sheer cliffs and wonderfully shaped peaks have made the Golden Lake worth visiting as a scenic destination.



**Translated by Gu Weizhou**



# Beijing's Qingyuntang Ancient Coin Shop

PHOTOS BY MA PEIWEN ARTICLE BY ZHANG MINLI & XIU SHI

A new signboard with the inscription "Ancient Coin Shop" hangs outside of the Qingyuntang Shop on Liulichang West Street in Beijing. This shop has long been known for selling Chinese calligraphic scrolls and rubbings, but gained its fame as the first shop in China where ancient coins could be bought, sold and exchanged freely. In the past, because of their value as cultural relics, such dealings were prohibited by law.

The Qingyuntang Ancient Coin Shop integrates the varied functions of exhibiting, marketing, buying, appraising and collecting ancient coins. Since its inception, numismatic aficionados from Beijing and other parts of the country have been crowding in front of the counters every day to buy, sell or exchange coins, or come just for a consultation. Among the customers who like to shop here are quite a few foreign tourists, because when they buy ancient coins, they will be issued a voucher which will ensure customs clearance of these rare coins.

The shop has a wide collection of over 10,000 coins from all dynasties classified into

some 2,000 varieties, of which more than 100 are rare and valuable specimens. A numismatic expert is specially employed by the shop to appraise obscure coins brought in by customers, which is done by determining their age and place of origin as well as their grade and authenticity.

## The Development of Chinese Coins

Ancient Chinese coins, as well as their collection and appraisal, have a uniquely long history. In the very beginning of Chinese society people used shells, particularly cowries and other natural objects as currency. Beginning in the Shang and Zhou dynasties (c. 16th century-221 B.C.) and with the development of metallurgy, copper currency started being minted. The earliest form was called *bu*, which took the shape of a small spade with a hollow handle. These were followed by knife-shaped coins, and then later round coins with square-holed centres were used.

Among the collection at the Qingyuntang Ancient Coin Shop are rare varieties including spade-shaped coins, six-character knife-

shaped coins and "face" coins of the Spring and Autumn (770-476 B.C.) and Warring States (475-221 B.C.) periods. With the unification of China by Emperor Qin Shihuang, all coins were standardized and made to be round with a square hole in the middle, weighing half an ounce and inscribed with the two characters *ban liang* (half a tael). This generic square-holed round coin continued to be minted in China for over 2,000 years until the abolition of the imperial monarchy.

Nevertheless, the round coins kept changing with the evolution of society as well as with changes in the dynastic cycle. From the Han (206 B.C.-A.D. 220) to the Sui (581-618) dynasties, the foremost denomination of coins was the five-*zhu*, which indicated the weight of the coin. During the Northern and Southern Dynasties (420-589), names of kingdoms and titles of kings' reigns began to appear on the coins minted in some of the smaller kingdoms. Beginning from the Tang Dynasty (618-907), titles of emperors' reigns were substituted for the weight indications previously inscribed.



This "face" coin is one kind of copper cowrie-shaped currency used from 1600-1100 B.C. Although not intentionally designed to look like a human face, the characters inscribed on it do resemble a person's eyes, nose and mouth.



Spade-shaped coins originated from actual spades first used by farmers in the Western and Eastern Zhou dynasties (c. 11th century-221 B.C.). Initially, they were too large to be carried conveniently, therefore they later were changed to a smaller size. These specimens were issued during the Spring and Autumn Period.



These six-character knife-shaped coins of the State of Qi were one type of coin used during the Spring and Autumn and Warring States periods. They came in varying sizes, but those with six-character inscriptions are the rarest.





*The Qingyuntang Ancient Coin Shop, located at 20 Liulichang West Street, Beijing, is the first shop in mainland China to buy and sell ancient coins. Sometimes as many as 500 collectors and coin aficionados visit the shop in a day.*

### Many Types of Currency

Paper currency in China was initiated in the Song Dynasty (960-1279), however no actual sample of this currency has been preserved. During the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) under Mongol rule paper currency was used extensively. In fact, the earliest extant paper currency specimens in the world are "Zhiyuan Notes for Circulation" issued in the Yuan Dynasty.

Towards the end of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), silver and copper coins inscribed with different denominations were put into circulation. Among the numerous varieties of ancient coins were those with denominations of 10, 100 or 1,000, high-valued gold or silver coins and auspicious coins not issued for circulation. These special coins were put into the treasury as reserves or used as Lunar New Year gifts for children. In addition to these types there were also coins inscribed with Chinese chess pieces or erotic pictures.

Included in the collection at Qingyuntang are auspicious coin sets depicting the 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac, the Eight Trigrams in the *Book of Changes* and propitious phrases. In China's remote villages, children are still sometimes seen wearing the latter such coins on a string around their necks.



*These specimens depict the 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac (bottom) and the Eight Trigrams from the Book of Changes (top right). The coin in the top left is a sample of the yasheng coins which bear propitious phrases. On the eve of the Spring Festival, adults would present these coins to their children as gifts.*



*The inscription on this coin was copied from the handwriting of the famous Emperor Huizong, and bears the title of his period of reign. Though this kind of coin does not command a high market price today, it is still a collector's favourite for its elegant writing and refined workmanship.*



## The Art of Coin Appraisal

The collection and appraisal of ancient coins is not only an interesting hobby, but also involves specialized knowledge, especially of history. As a considerable number of ancient coins are inscribed with titles of emperors' reigns, it would be impossible to determine their time and authenticity if one were not familiar with all these titles. In addition, it is essential for connoisseurs to have an intimate knowledge of the shape, quality, size and weight of each unearthed coin and to know its market value. To assist the collector, books about coins and currencies of various kinds are available at Qingyuntang for interested readers.

Collecting ancient coins also offers one the opportunity to appreciate calligraphy. Many Chinese characters inscribed on these coins were written by famous calligraphers, including Li Si, a statesman of the Qin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.), Wang Mang, ruler of the Xin Dynasty (9-23) and Emperor Huizong of the Song Dynasty. The inscriptions written by Emperor Huizong are considered the best examples of calligraphic art on coins.

Most people believe that the older the coin is, the higher its value. This however, is not necessarily the case. While coins from remote times do often command high prices, if they are found in great quantities then their value will decrease. Therefore the guiding principle

is: the more rare a coin is, the more value it has. For example, some emperors died only a very short time after they were enthroned. Other reigns were very short-lived, and yet others were established by self-proclaimed rebellious leaders. Coins of these periods were not abundant even when they were minted, and the numbers that have survived until today are even fewer, hence extremely precious. The condition and appearance of ancient coins is also important. Those manufactured with exquisite workmanship and which have been preserved intact are considered the best.

## Anyone Can Be a Collector

Equipped with basic knowledge, one may begin the practice of buying and collecting ancient coins, and the Qingyuntang Ancient Coin Shop is a good place to start. At the door of the shop people are often seen trying to sell ancient coins. Some are pedlars with a large stock of coins bought door to door in distant villages, most not yet sorted out or

classified and therefore haphazardly arranged. Other people are eager to sell their collections to subsidize their daily expenses. There are of course also a number of buyers. Some of them wish to find rare varieties to add to their collections. Transactions may be conducted either by cash or by bartering coins.

Unfortunately, in recent years counterfeit ancient coins have begun to appear in the market. Elaborately produced to the point where they are covered with rust, they look just like the genuine article and cannot be distinguished by inexperienced eyes. So tourists are advised to consult with experts when they want to buy ancient coins, and be safe, to buy from the counters inside the shop. In this way one can avoid the woeful plight of the so-called shrewd bargainer who obtains a half-tael Qin Dynasty coin or a five-zhu Han Dynasty coin at a low price only to discover that his relic of the past was minted just a few days ago.

Translated by Xia Ping



Mr. Lu Hua, assistant manager of the Ancient Coin Shop, answers questions for this customer.



The four characters on this coin are written in the Phatspa Mongolian script, named after its creator, a Tibetan lama who lived during the Yuan Dynasty. The written script became extinct with the downfall of the Yuan Empire. The inscription on the obverse side of the coin reads Zhi Yuan Tong Bao, or currency of the Yuan Dynasty.



This copper coin minted in the Ming Dynasty has the character for 10 at the top and the word liang (tael) carved on the right. One such coin is equivalent to ten one-liang coins.



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3801 CHEST WADER	38-48	6	28	26	68x49x26
IP05 RUBBER BOOTS	22-26	10	9	8	41x21x36
	27-30	10	10	9	43x24x42
	31-35	10	11	10	48x27x49
IP04 RUBBER BOOTS	22-26	10	9	8	41x21x36
	27-30	10	10	9	43x24x42
	31-35	10	11	10	48x27x49
P02	22-26	10	9	8	41x21x36
	27-30	10	10	9	43x24x42
	31-35	10	11	10	48x27x49
3401-1 3401-2 LABOUR PROTECTIVE BOOTS	38-46	6	13	12	58x32x31
3402 COVERBOOTS	38-46	6	13	12	58x32x31
P10 RUBBER BOOTS	26-33	12	12	11	48x23x48
	34-38	12	13	12	49x25x57
	39-42	12	14	13	52x29x58
	43-46	12	15	14	56x33x59
P01 INDUSTRIAL BOOTS	38-46	6	13	12	58x32x31



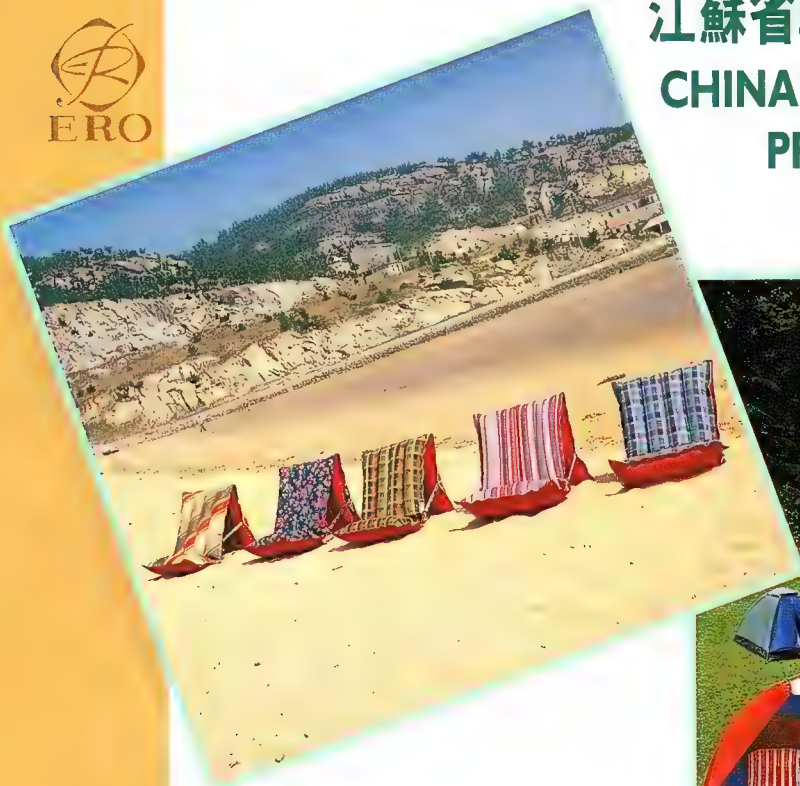
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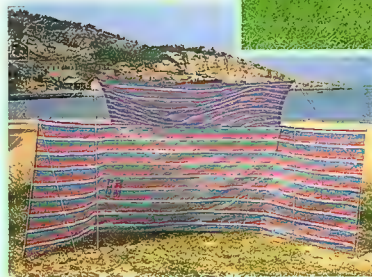
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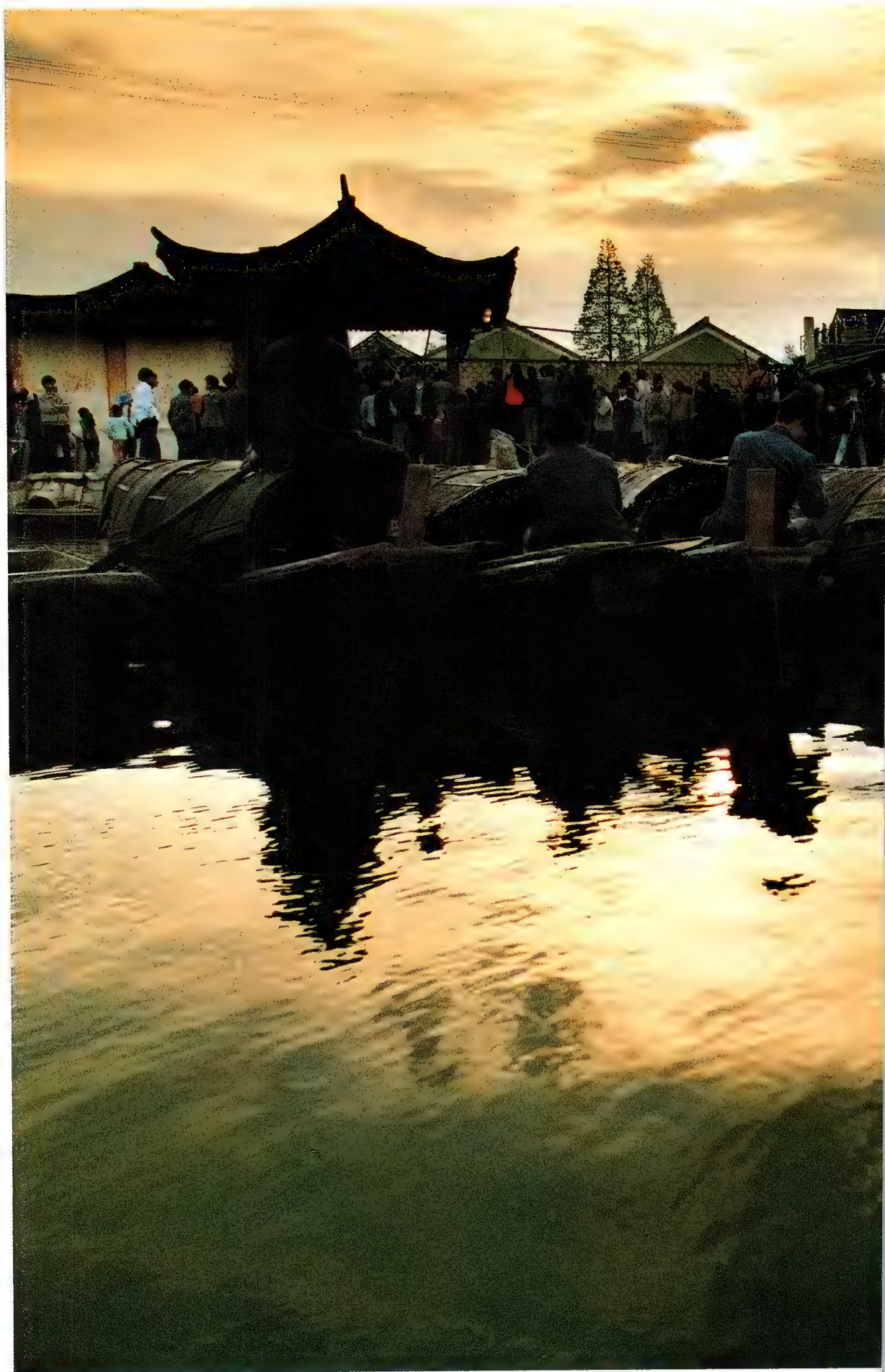
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## Opera Lovers in Shaoxing

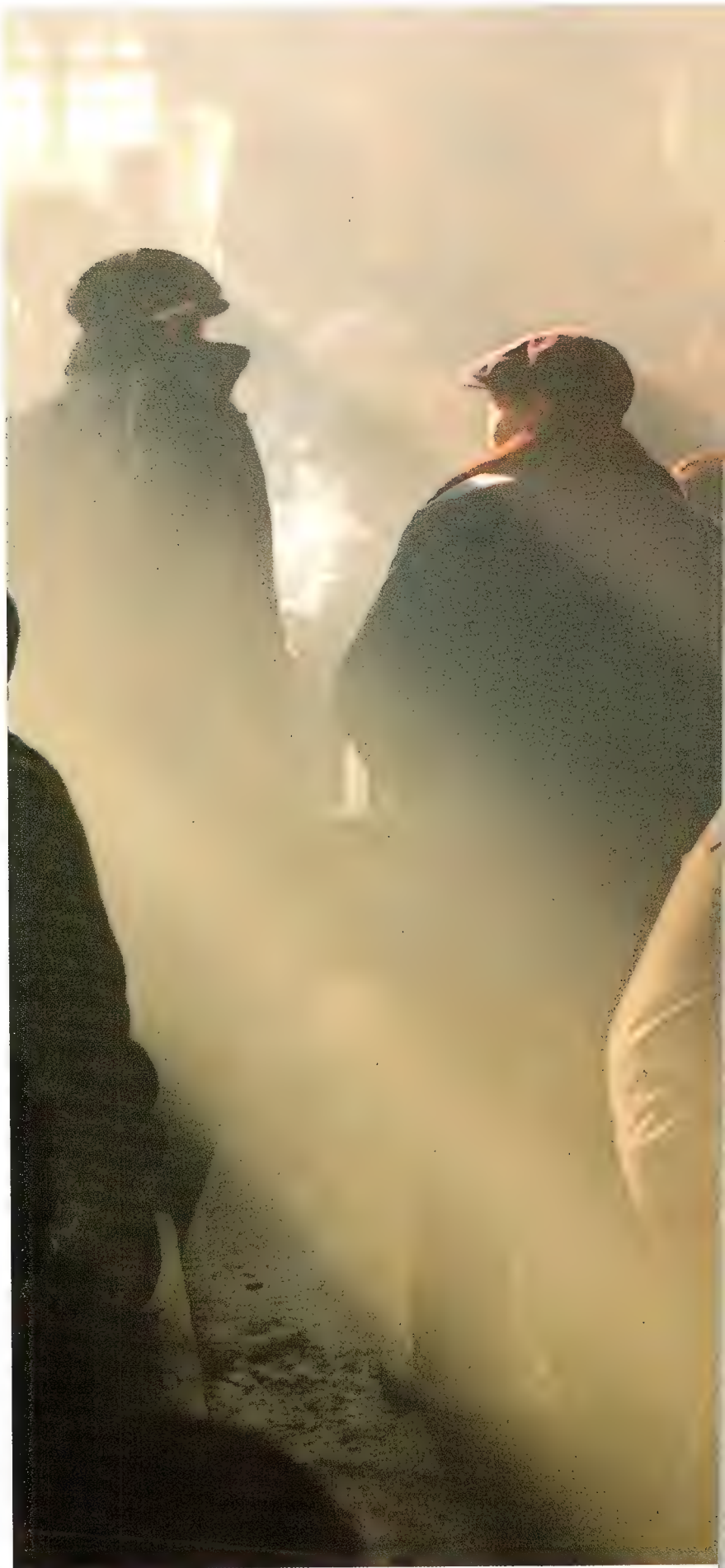
As evening approaches, covered sampans glide noiselessly towards the edge of the canal. People of all ages gather outside the walls of the temple, vying for the best vantage point. In the courtyard a local opera is underway, a special event held only on festival days in this quiet city of Shaoxing in Zhejiang Province. Like its more famous neighbour Hangzhou, Shaoxing is a place of canals and waterways. It is best known, however, as the producer of Shaoxing wine, considered one of the finest in China. Shaoxing is also where the celebrated author Lu Xun (1881-1936) wrote some of his most well-known works. With a history of over 2,500 years, an ancient atmosphere pervades the city, making it truly a photographer's paradise.



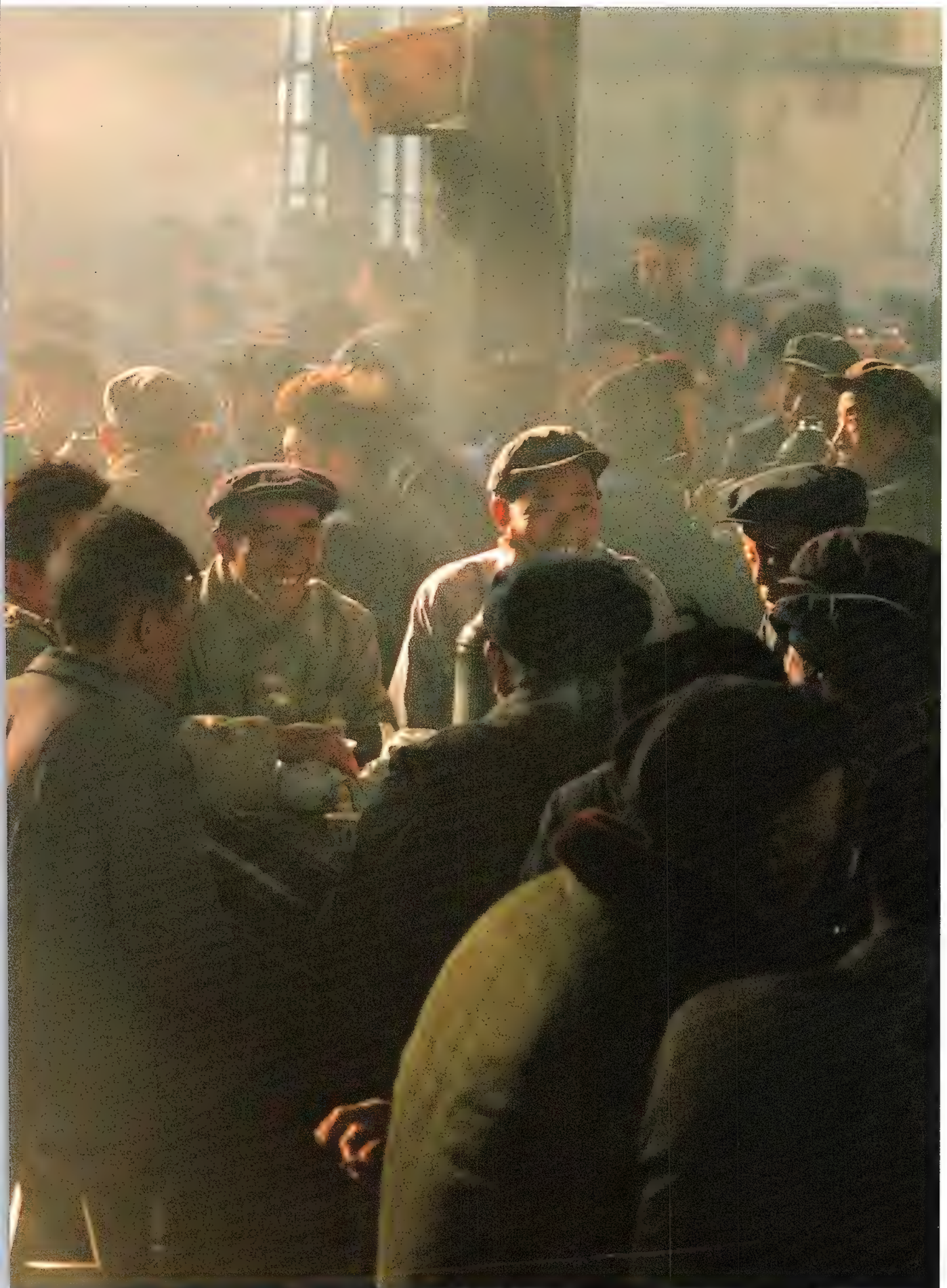
## Morning Tea in Shanghai

At the break of dawn the people of Qingpu, a suburb of Shanghai, sit down in this ancient tea-house for a cup of tea and some breakfast, preparing for the day ahead. Outside the air is cold and the ground is frozen, but inside, the atmosphere is warm and friendly, as steam rises slowly from each individual cup of tea. One can see from the smiling faces that although it is crowded and noisy, this is definitely the preferred way to start the day.

Known as the "city where night never comes", Shanghai is at once bustling with both modern and ancient pastimes to amuse its more than 12 million inhabitants. Despite the fact that Shanghai is rapidly changing in many respects, morning tea remains an indispensable part of life for people here and all over China. 












## Embroidered Bird Images on Miao Clothing

PHOTOS BY ZENG XIANYANG TEXT BY ZHANG XIAO

**A**ncient folk embroidery is both attractive and interesting, with most pieces depicting some legend or story from long ago. The bird-design embroidery of the Miao people living in the Shidong area in Taijiang County of Guizhou Province is such an example.

A Miao legend handed down from ancient times goes like this: there was once a maple tree, whose trunk later turned into a butterfly and the treetop into a bird called JiYu (Motacilla). The butterfly laid twelve eggs, on which the bird sat for twelve years. Seeing that the eggs had still not hatched, the bird could no longer endure it and flew away. Suddenly, a voice from inside one of the eggshells called to the bird. The voice was made by Jiang Yang – the legendary ancestor of human beings – who had taken shape inside the eggshell and when hatched, took the bird as its mother.

In the Miao people's view, the bird hastened the arrival of human beings, thus it naturally became their totem. This probably explains why the two legendary heads of the ancestors of the Miao nationality – Chi You and Huan Dou – are said to have wings and be able to fly. Even today some Miao communities in southeast Guizhou (including Taijiang County) still call themselves birds, while some others call themselves swallows. Links to their bird heritage can also be seen in the white feather coats and bird-shaped silver coronets worn by the Miao girls living in Rongjiang, Leishan and Kaili. Yet another example of this is found in dresses embroidered with bird designs. From the various designs and intricate handiwork, the Miao people's strong ties to their ancestors are undeniable. 

Translated by Chen Jiaji



As legend has it, when a phoenix takes to the sky, people can see nothing but its colourful feathers. This story reflects the common desire and hope of human beings to fly. In this piece of Miao embroidery, the feathers of the bird are emphasized with silk threads of various colours, while the other details of the bird are depicted very simply.



This complicated piece of embroidery shows a boy with flowers, a bird, a butterfly and a flying dragon. This is most likely a depiction of the Miao legend of the bird Jiyu and the boy Jiang Yang – the ancestor of human beings – who was hatched in an egg for 12 years before he came out.



It is said that totem worship is the worship of reproduction, and the greatest merit and virtue of one's ancestors lay in reproduction. This ancient concept is revived with the image of a bird carrying a boy. In the middle, there is a mother holding a child to her bosom, which implies that the bird is a symbol of motherhood.



In this piece, a bird is carrying a boy. One might say it expresses the idea that since ancient times, the Chinese have preferred boys to girls as their offspring. The best outcome for the forefathers of the Miao people, for example, was to have nine sons and seven daughters. Consequently, a dress with such a totem serves as a kind of "birth order" to the woman to increase her chances of giving birth to a boy.





*This embroidery piece testifies to the Miao people's worship of the male sex organ. The body of the bird has been stretched, bearing a strong resemblance to the male sex organ. In the ancient worship of totems, the male sex organ represented having a son to carry on one's family name. It was by no means obscene, but sacred and solemn.*





Is it a bird? At first glance, it looks more like a centipede. But its outspread tail feathers and the black and white feathers along the body betray the identity of an abstract bird. The white pattern in the centre of the piece is shaped like a butterfly. Again, one can assume that it tells the story of Jiyu and the butterfly.



The symmetry of these two birds is a fine example of the artistry and skill present in Miao embroidery. Their joined tails are producing a red egg, representing the importance of birds to the Miao people regarding their origin.





# Beijing's Taiwan Hotel

PHOTOS BY LAN BO  
TEXT BY ER DONGCHEN

◀ *The Taiwan Hotel was built in grand Chinese style.*

▼ *The excellent cuisine in both the Chinese and Western restaurants is one of the attractions of the hotel.*

*Delicate paper-cuts with auspicious characters decorate the curtains of this dining room, creating a cosy atmosphere.*






**T**hese days travellers to Beijing will find that there is a wide choice of lodgings available in a variety of price ranges. Many tourists tend to head towards the well-known Wangfujing area, which is home to some of Beijing's most luxurious accommodations. If, however, one wishes to stay in this centrally-located district but not pay luxury hotel prices, the Taiwan Hotel, Beijing is the perfect choice. Offering five-star service at three-star prices, this hotel is an exceptional find.

Situated on the eastern side of Wangfujing Avenue, just off Jinyu (Goldfish) Lane, it is only a short walk to Dong'an Market, Tian'anmen Square, Beihai Park and other places of interest. Just opposite the hotel is the Donglaishun Restaurant, famous for its mutton hot-pot dishes and, the Jixiang Theatre, thus everything one might need is in close reach.

The 12-storey hotel was built in classic Chinese architectural style, with golden glazed roof tiles and two pavilions set off by two aged Chinese scholar trees at the entrance, giving it an air of Oriental elegance. Entering the lobby one is greeted by beautiful wooden sculptures based on Chinese legends and myths and decorative bronze bells suspended from the ceiling — all creating an impression of grandeur and tradition. Often when choosing between the many fine hotels in Beijing, one uses atmos-

phere as a deciding factor: how the place makes you feel. The Taiwan Hotel has a charm of its own that one must experience to understand.

The hotel has both Western and Chinese restaurants, staffed by top chefs from Hong Kong. There is also a "Food Street", where one can slowly wander at leisure and sample the various cuisines on offer. In fact, for people from Taiwan, "Food Street" should be a pleasant reminder of home.

In the evening there is plenty to do without even having to leave the hotel. The Chinese restaurant provides live entertainment after 9:30, and there is a karaoke lounge and a Texas-style bar. So no matter what your preference, the Taiwan Hotel has something for all tastes. 

*Wood carvings of mythical Chinese figures adorn the walls of the Coffee Shop.*



► *The rooster in the Western Restaurant symbolizes the Chinese Year of the Rooster, 1993.*

▼ *Even in this completely Chinese-style hotel, cowboys and cowgirls can still feel at home in the Texas Bar.*



## Facts and Figures on the Taiwan Hotel, Beijing

The Taiwan Hotel, Beijing is a Sino-foreign joint venture project, managed by the Hong Kong company Harvest International Hotels Ltd. The hotel has more than 300 rooms and is equipped with all the modern conveniences — a business centre, shopping arcade, beauty salon, sauna, gym, billiard room, 24-hour room service, IDD and satellite TV.

There is a Chinese restaurant in the hotel, as well as a Western-style café and a "Food Street", offering noodles, congee, desserts, Cantonese-style snacks and Taiwanese dishes. Entertainment facilities include banquet rooms, a Texas Bar, a karaoke lounge and a nightclub. Live music is also provided nightly in the Chinese restaurant beginning at 9:30 p.m.

Address: 5 Jinyu Lane, Wangfujing Avenue, Beijing, China

Tel: 5136688 Telex: 210543 TWHTL CN

Fax: 5136896 Cable: 2371

Reservations (in Hong Kong):

Tel: 8612682 Fax: 8663850

Telex: 70312 HAIHL HX

Season Room Type	Off Season (1/12-31/12/93)	Normal Season (1/3-31/8/93)	Peak Season (1/9-30/11/93)
Standard	US\$45	US\$50	US\$55
Superior	US\$50	US\$55	US\$60
Deluxe	US\$60	US\$70	US\$75
Executive Suite	US\$110	US\$120	US\$130
Deluxe Suite	US\$120	US\$130	US\$140
President Suite	US\$130	US\$140	US\$150
Extra Bed			US\$12

(All the rates above are subject to 10% service charge.)





A couple of rubbings depict Tang Dynasty women preparing to serve tea, one with her tea sets laid out, and the other cooking tea over a fire (by Peng Zheng).

THINGS  
CHINESE

# The Celebrated Tea

Zhejiang Province, which is famous for producing quality green tea, is also one of the seminal locations of the art of tea drinking in China. The tea and the art of Zhejiang tea drinking was developed by tea lovers between the Sui and Tang Dynasties (581-907) and especially during the Song (960-1279). Zhejiang is producing about twelve different types of widely enjoyed tea with the most famous being the fragrant Longjing Tea grown around West Lake. The tea leaves that grow on the slopes of Mount Jingshan in Yuhang County were cultivated and subsequently offered as a gift to the Buddha by the same monks who built the first temple on the mountain during the Tang Dynasty. Jingshan Tea became very popular during the Song Dynasty. It was a common practice for monks of the Jingshan Temple to study Buddhist teachings through discussions and debates. Whenever the highly respected monks gathered to discuss Buddhist scriptures, the tea was served and, as time went by, those discussion sessions were also known as "tea banquets". It was around the same period that two Japanese monks came to China to learn more about Buddhism in China. In addition to a deep-

er understanding of Buddhism they also brought home with them ten tea plant seeds, the skills of raising and processing tea leaves, and the Chinese art of tea drinking. The tea set and the etiquette of the Jingshan "tea banquets" eventually became widely adopted by the Japanese; thus, Jingshan Temple contributed directly to the development of the Japanese art of tea drinking.

Tea was the favourite beverage for people of Hangzhou during the Qing Dynasty and teahouses lined the streets of the city. A poet once wrote a poem describing a scene similar to this: Under the clear blue sky with the autumn breeze blowing high, the picturesque West Lake is a natural delight for visitors enjoying tea. Teahouses were packed with customers captivated by the moving historical stories told by storytellers. Treating customers to popular cultural performances was the traditional form of entertainment in teahouses in Hangzhou at the time. Besides listening to historical tales, customers could also enjoy Suzhou style ballads, monodramas, magic shows *qi-gong* demonstrations and other performances.

## Tea Drinkers Make History

According to the *West Lake Travelogue* written by Tian Rucheng, a 16th century official and published during the Ming Dynasty, teahouses began springing up on the streets of Hangzhou during Ming time: "In the third month of the 26th year of Emperor Jiajing's reign (1522-1566), a man with the surname Li opened a teahouse which attracted a lot of customers. The lucrative business lured so many others into the trade that more than 50 teahouses opened within

10 days." However, Li was actually not the person who opened the first teahouse in Hangzhou. Teahouses could be found in Hangzhou long before Emperor Jiajing's reign. According to the one historical record, the *Notes of Meng Liang*, penned by Wu Zimu during the time of the Southern Song Dynasty, "One could run into street hawkers who sell tea from door to door in both big streets and narrow alleys. On the first and fifteenth day of the month, whenever there is a funeral or an occasion that calls for celebration, tea hawkers would be hired to serve tea to neighbours and friends." Besides tea hawkers, teahouses were also common. The same source mentions that "they serve special blends of tea all year round and, during winter months, tea lovers can also order tea mixed with seven rare ingredients". The design of the teahouses were simple and yet elegant. They were usually decorated with bouquets of flowers in bloom during that season, rare species of fir and pine, and paintings and scrolls with calligraphy by famous scholars and artists. Another Song Dynasty historical record on



In a Longjing village house, freshly picked tea leaves just before the Qingming Festival, which usually falls around the 5th of April, are being fried at high temperature to prevent fermentation. This is a rather time-consuming job as only about 50 gm. of tea goes into the frying wok every time (by Peng Zheng).



Villagers at this plantation in Zhejiang's Longjing are picking tea of the same name. Longjing (Dragon Well) tea is a fragrant green tea which is among the best teas of China (by Xie Guanghui).

Hangzhou, *Notes on Travelling Ancient Hangzhou in Dream* authored by Nai Deweng observed, "Calligraphy and paintings by famous artists are common decorative items in large teahouses. Formerly only cooked food stores in the capital used to display paintings to attract customers. The same tactic is used now in teahouses." Teahouse keepers were very fastidious about the way tea was served. The beverage was always served in porcelain teaware carried to customers on lacquered trays. The most well-known teahouse at the time was the Jiangjianyue Teahouse in Qinghefang. During the Lantern Festival on the night of the fifteenth day of the first lunar month, the book records: "At the Jiangjianyue Tea-



# Teahouses of Hangzhou

house, all kinds of special tea would be served and the entire building would be illuminated by big lamps shining bright yellow and every passer-by would stop and admire the joyous atmosphere." Some teahouses did not only serve tea, but would also offer singing lessons and tuition for playing musical instruments to customers, or treat customers to performances by professional singers and dancers. However, only the more wealthy families, literati and officials could afford to visit or meet with friends in these types of teahouses. During the Song Dynasty, in addition to the teahouses on major streets, one could also find in narrow side streets small stalls selling thirst-quenching tea to the less wealthy majority. At the time, market fairs were held regularly in the city. In the middle of the spacious square where the fairs were held, one could find booths selling different types of goods and on the outer rim of the square stood shops, restaurants and also teahouses. *The Annals of Lin'an* says: Stalls selling wine and tea packed the Lin'an (present-day Hangzhou) market fair. "At the South Market west of the Lengqiao Bridge, one can find the Xichunlou Teahouse while the Sanyuanlou stands in the Central Market north of Nanfang, or one can visit the Yangpenglou at the North Market south of the Zhong'an Bridge."

Teahouses which used to be exclusive to the wealthier classes in the country began to spring up everywhere since the beginning of the Ming Dynasty. Wu Jingzi, the author of *Rulin Waishi (The Scholars)*, who had visited Hangzhou, depicted vividly the customs and daily life of the people in the city in his literary masterpiece and various scenes in teahouses were covered extensively. In chapter 14 of the book, he wrote: From the moment Mr. Ma Er left the Qiantang Gate, passed the Shangyin Temple and finally reached Jiangci via Sudi Dam, he stopped at four different teahouses to enjoy his favourite beverage. Teahouses literally lined both sides of the route he took and "the black curtains outside wine shops waved in the wind while red hot stoves on which steaming kettles rested glowed in stores selling tea". Mr. Ma Er then moved on to Wushan where teahouses and tables for tea lovers could be seen everywhere: "There are more than 30 shops and stalls which sell tea on one single street."

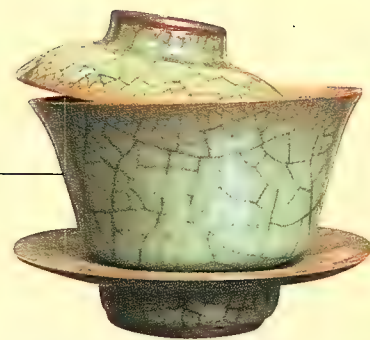
The people of Hangzhou liked plain tea and that was why no other food was served in teahouses in the past. However, teahouse keepers came up with innovative ideas of putting flower petals in tea to enrich its fragrance. They would complement black

tea with rose petals and add some other to cups of green tea. During the Lunar New Year, it was customary for teahouses to serve Yuanbao (Gold Ingot) Tea. From the first to the third day of the first lunar month, every customer who stepped into the teahouses would be served a cup of plain tea with several fresh olives and kumquats added into it. The name Yuanbao Tea symbolized good fortune as it was said: "After a sip of the Yuanbao Tea, one's pocket will be filled with gold ingots all year round." In these days there was nothing like a Federal Trade Commission to regulate against misrepresentation in advertising. Hyperbole like this was taken in stride. Some teahouses also sold wine. The more famous ones among them included Xiyuelai, Yiyuan, Xianleyuan outside Yongjin Gate and the Jingchunlou just in front of the Zhaoqing Temple.

## The Decline and Revival of Teahouses

Before the end of the 1940s, there were a total of more than 200 teahouses in the city area and suburbs of Hangzhou and every temple and convent had a tea room where visitors and pilgrims could rest and refresh themselves with tea. On the main streets, there were big teahouses with names everybody knew. Besides Yayuan (Elegant Garden), Wanhulou (Lakeview Tower), Xiyu (Rain Lovers) Terrace, Pinfang (Tasting the Sweet Fragrance), there was also the Niao'er Chahui (The Assembly of Birds at Tea Party) — a teahouse so dubbed because bird lovers would gather there to exchange views on rearing their song birds and admiring each other's fine feathered friends. At the time, businessmen often meet in teahouses to become acquainted with associates and negotiate deals. As time went by, businessmen from different trades gathered to meet in separate teahouses. The teahouses near bus stations and piers would remain open around the clock and passengers could rest on bamboo beds and easy chairs while waiting for their vehicles. Many of the older teahouses, however, were frequented by bums and hooligans and more respectable customers were driven away. Their business would decline until they were forced to close. There was a time when, except for establishments located near favourite tourist destinations around West Lake, nearly all teahouses in Hangzhou proper vanished.

In the late 70s, teahouses revived. Small teahouses sprang up again first in various scenic spots around West Lake. Their simple yet tasteful design and decorations blend with the natural beauty of West Lake and



*This tea cup with a lid and a holder is a reproduction of a celadon piece of the Southern Song (1127-1279) period (by Peng Zheng).*

its surrounding landscape. In the past few years, teahouses catering for different groups of customers have opened in Hangzhou. On the peak of Wushan, for example, and in some small city alleys, one can find the so-called "Elderly Teahouses" where retired senior citizens meet and chat about their lives, past and present. Young people, however, can enjoy tea and music at affairs known as "Musical Tea Parties" organized for them by the Youth Palace and some restaurants while businessmen can exchange the latest market information and discuss



*Pictured here is a corner in the tea house section of Hangzhou's newly-opened China Tea Museum which is situated at the tea plantation of Longjing. Sharing a table with a wax figure, a Japanese visitor samples tea during the first Hangzhou International Tea Culture Festival of China, held from 24th-30th April in 1991 in several venues throughout the city (by Yu Zhixin).*

plans at "Information Tea Parties" hosted by commercial organizations and government information bureaux. Technical bureaux also hold "Technology Tea Parties" for technicians and research personnel to facilitate communication with production management; and workers from the forestry and landscaping departments can meet at "Antiquity Tea Parties" held at the Ruangong Mound in the middle of West Lake. Last but not least, tea lovers from home and abroad can be refreshed by their favourite beverage at the "Home of Tea Lovers" on the Linyin Path.

Translated by Ursula Yeung





## BUSINESS TIPS

### Investment in China Booming

The investment climate in China has improved greatly in recent years, with the government opening up more and more sectors for foreign co-operation. One example is the China Petroleum and Natural Gas Corporation, which recently announced plans for 12 more areas to be developed with the co-operation of foreign oil firms. The new areas opened to foreign investors total 417,900 square kilometres and include the oil-rich Qaidam Basin in Qinghai Province and the Tarim Basin in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. China has also extended its range of foreign-funded projects to include other areas previously banned to overseas investment, such as commerce, banking, insurance and real estate. The latter is especially attractive to foreign investors who wish to undertake land development projects.

### Anhui's Anqing City Set for Investment

The city of Anqing, located along the Yangtse River in Anhui Province, is trying to attract foreign investment to help develop local industries. A six-man commission has been set up to seek international business opportunities for projects such as chemical, fertilizer, building materials and paper pulp production. Plans are underway to set up a Taiwan Investment Zone for business people from Taiwan and elsewhere, a Chemical Industrial Zone and the Lao Feng Economic Development Zone.

### China's Newest Free Trade Zone

Guangdong's third free trade zone will begin operation in May of this year in the city's already existing Economic and Technology Development Zone in the Huangpu District. So far overseas investors have signed 21 letters of intent indicating plans to invest over US\$230 million in the new Guangzhou Free Trade Zone, which will cover 1.4 square kilometres of land. The Guangzhou Economic and Technology Development Zone is already a big success, earning a total of US\$227 million in foreign exchange last year.

### Shanghai Customs Favours Processing Projects

Shanghai Customs has recently implemented new policies to favour companies engaged in processing or assembling that use materials imported from foreign firms. Once such a company has obtained permission from the relevant authorities, customs will allow registration procedures for the projects to proceed. They also now provide prompt service for such projects, and formalities at customs have been simplified. Preferential policies are to follow, such as allowing the imported materials to be duty-free, and customs will offer consultation services to companies who wish to know more about these rights.

### Shanghai's Textile Industry Promotes New Projects

The Shanghai Municipal Textile Bureau has chosen 161 projects to promote for foreign investment and co-operation. The projects will include various textile-related industries, as well as other businesses such as real estate, commerce, tourism and finance. Foreign co-operation, compensation trade or trademark and patent investments are all welcome. In Shanghai's Pudong New Area, one million square metres of land has been purchased by the textile bureau for foreign-funded projects, with the same amount available on the west bank of the Huangpu River.

### Puyang Seeing Rapid Development

The city of Puyang in the northeast of Henan Province has been putting a great deal of effort into improving its infrastructure and facilities for business investors both from China and abroad. In the transportation field, a new network of highways, railways and water transport is underway, with Puyang already lying along the Beijing-Guangzhou Railway line. There are also highways linking the city to neighbouring Shanxi and Shandong provinces, and once completed, the Beijing-Kowloon Railway will also be easily accessible from Puyang.

Modern telecommunications equipment is available and urban facilities such as hospitals, shops, schools, recreation centres and hotels are well prepared to cope with greater economic development in the future. In addition, the city is offering preferential treatment and tax breaks to various kinds of enterprises, and is in the process of simplifying governmental working procedures to make doing business in Puyang as efficient as possible.

### Meat-Packing Plant Seeks Investors

The Luohe Meat-Packing Plant in the city of Luohe in Henan Province is hoping to work together with more overseas investors in the future. Already one of China's top 100 foreign currency earners, the plant's profits last year were close to US\$7 million and had a total output of US\$86.2 million. The plant has a slaughterhouse with the most up-to-date refrigeration and processing equipment, producing thousands of tons of sausage, pork and beef annually. In recent years the plant has co-operated with overseas businesses and exported its products to many countries worldwide.

### Shandong Going for Gold with Foreign Investment

Shandong Province has been the largest producer of gold in China for the past 16 years, and now has plans to further improve industries in all sectors, including gold. The Provincial Gold Bureau will be looking for ways to develop and mine gold abroad with foreign partners, while also developing projects within the province such as gold and silver ornament processing. The gold industry has been controlled by the State for over 40 years, and recently enterprises have been suffering economically because they must sell their gold to the State at a fixed price regardless of the increasing costs of production. Although perhaps in the future the State will loosen its grip on the gold industry, for the time being many enterprises are turning to non-gold projects to help boost profits, such as the service industry.

### Haikou's New Development Zone a Sure Success

Located in Hainan Province, the Yangpu Economic Development Area is being touted as a fully-integrated free trade and foreign investment zone, with the most preferential investment policies in China. The area, which covers 30 square kilometres, will be managed as an international free port where both overseas, foreign-funded and joint-venture companies can operate. All products, except raw materials, that are exported and imported from the area will be tax-free and will not need import-export permits.

Another favourable characteristic of the area is that land rights will be leased to an overseas syndicate led by Kumagai Gumi (HK) Limited for 70 years, and the syndicate plans to invest a total of US\$17.5 billion in infrastructure and construction projects.



# EXECUTIVE JOTTINGS

## Major Hotels in Gansu and Hubei Provinces

### Lanzhou, Gansu

#### Friendship Hotel, Lanzhou

友誼飯店  
14 Xijin Road West, Lanzhou, Gansu 730050  
Tel: 333051  
Rates: Standard FEC¥150/200

#### Hongyun Hotel

虹雲賓館  
5 Gaolan Road, Lanzhou, Gansu 730000  
Tel: 28311  
90 rooms and suites  
Located 7.5 km from airport, 2 km from railway station

#### Jincheng Hotel

金城賓館  
363 Tianshui Road, Lanzhou, Gansu 730000  
Tel: 416638 Telex: 72121 BTHJC CN  
302 rooms and suites Rates: Standard FEC¥297, suite  
FEC ¥528  
Located 75 km from airport, 2 km from railway station

#### Lanhua Guesthouse

蘭化賓館  
Welfare District, Xigu, Lanzhou, Gansu 730060  
Tel: 55981

#### Lanzhou Hotel

蘭州飯店  
204 Donggang Road West, Lanzhou, Gansu 730000  
Tel: 416321  
Rates: Standard FEC¥150/250, suite FEC¥250/300

#### Ningwozhuang Guesthouse

寧臥莊賓館  
238 Tianshui Road, Lanzhou, Gansu 730000  
Tel: 416221 Telex: 72146 GUEST CN  
Fax: 417639  
GM: Hou Shenghua  
130 rooms Rates: US\$30  
Located 1 km from airport, 1 km from railway station  
Facilities: Meeting and conference rooms, business centre,  
shopping arcade, beauty salon, billiard room, dance hall,  
tennis courts, function rooms, Chinese and Western  
restaurants

#### Victory Hotel

勝利賓館  
127 Zhongshan Road, Lanzhou, Gansu 730030  
Tel: 465221  
Rates: Standard FEC¥140/180, suite FEC¥200/240

#### Zhongchuan Airport Hotel

中川機場飯店  
Zhongchuan Airport, Lanzhou, Gansu 730087  
Tel: 23415

### Dunhuang, Gansu

敦煌賓館  
1 Dongda Street, Dunhuang, Gansu 736200  
Tel: 22008 Telex: 72078 DHBGS CN  
155 rooms Rates: Standard FEC¥130/200, suite FEC¥300  
Located 13 km from airport, 128 km from railway station

#### Dunhuang Second Hotel

敦煌第二賓館  
Dingzi Road, Dunhuang, Gansu 736200  
Rates: FEC¥100

#### Feitian Hotel

飛天賓館  
Dingzi Road, Dunhuang, Gansu 736200  
Tel: 22337  
Rates: Standard FEC¥150

#### Solar Energy Hotel

太陽能賓館  
14 Beida Street, Dunhuang, Gansu 736200  
Tel: 2134

### Tianshui, Gansu

#### Tianshui Hotel

天水賓館  
5 Yingbin Road, Tianshui, Gansu 741000  
Tel: 212410, 212553 Fax: (0938) 212823  
GM: Li Dongguang  
Opened 18 August 1987  
172 rooms Rates: Single US\$33, Standard US\$25, suite  
US\$43/53  
Located 10 km from airport, 16 km from railway station  
Taxi fare to/from airport, US\$2  
Facilities: Beauty salon, bar, dance hall, restaurants, business  
centre, clinic

### Jiayuguan, Gansu

#### Jiayuguan Hotel

嘉峪關賓館  
1 Xinhua Road North, Jiayuguan, Gansu 735100  
Tel: 26185, 25804 Fax: 26931  
GM: Wang Li  
Opened 1983  
75 rooms and suites Rates: Standard FEC¥130, suite  
FEC¥160  
Located 13 km from airport, 5 km from railway station  
Facilities: Conference and banquet halls, Chinese and  
Western restaurants, bar, coffee shop, shopping arcade,  
karaoke, gym, indoor swimming pool, massage, beauty  
salon

### Jiuquan, Gansu

#### Jiuquan Hotel

酒泉賓館  
Nanguan, Jiuquan, Gansu 735000  
Tel: 2560, 2641

### Xiahe, Gansu

#### Labrang Guesthouse

拉卜楞賓館  
County seat of Xiahe County, Xiahe, Gansu 747100

### Yichang, Hubei

#### Nanhu Hotel

南湖賓館  
63 Fusui Road, Yichang, Hubei 443000  
Tel: 224033 Fax: 224066

#### Taohualing Hotel

桃花嶺飯店  
29 Yunji Road, Yichang, Hubei 443000  
Tel: (0717) 222515  
Fax: 445701  
GM: Xianyu Kaiguo  
Opened 1 October 1957  
275 rooms Rates: US\$47  
Located in the heart of the city, 25 km from airport, 0.7 km  
from railway station  
Facilities: Dance hall, business centre, bar, karaoke, gym,  
billiard room, massage, beauty salon, health club

#### Three Gorges Hotel

三峽賓館  
38 Yanjiang Road, Yichang, Hubei 443000  
Tel: 224911, 223438 Telex: 40253 YSXBG CN  
Fax: (0717) 442025  
GM: Lee Mingyi  
Opened October 1986  
132 rooms and suites Rates: US\$42  
Located 10 km from airport, 2.5 km from railway station  
Facilities: Business centre, clinic, beauty salon, dance hall,  
bar, shopping arcade, Chinese and Western restaurants

### Jiangling, Hubei

#### Jingzhou Hotel

荊州賓館  
4 Yingbinguan Road, Jingzhou Town, Jiangling, Hubei 434100  
Tel: 467600

### Shashi, Hubei

#### Jiangjin Hotel

江津賓館  
1 Gongyuan Road, Shashi, Hubei 434000 Tel: 212496

#### Zhanghua Hotel

章華賓館  
100 Zhongzhan Road, Shashi, Hubei 434000 Tel: 213401

### Wuhan, Hubei

#### Jiangnan Hotel

江漢飯店  
245 Shengli Street, Hankou, Wuhan, Hubei 430014  
Tel: 211600 Telex: 40150 HBIAN CN  
Fax: 214342  
GM: Lou Zhiqin  
106 rooms and suites Rates: US\$50  
Located 28 km from airport, 1 km from railway station

#### Lijiang Hotel

湖北麗江飯店  
1 Tiyyuguan Road, Wuchang, Hubei 430071  
Tel: 713668 Telex: 400282  
Fax: 713638  
Opened 1 November 1990  
126 rooms and suites Rates: US\$30  
Located 6 km from airport  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, disco,  
billiard room, business centre, beauty salon, shopping  
arcade, clinic, banquet room (300 seats)

#### Qingchuan Hotel

晴川飯店  
88 Ximachang Street, Hanyang, Wuhan 430050  
Tel: 446688, 444181 Telex: 41034 HBQC CN  
Fax: (027) 564964  
GM: Jiang Wu Yi  
Opened July 1984  
300 rooms and suites Rates: US\$48  
Located in the city centre, 15 km from airport, 13 km from  
railway station  
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb¥40; railway station, Rmb¥30  
Facilities: Business centre, bar, billiard room, sauna, beauty  
salon, massage, clinic, meeting rooms, gym, tennis court,  
Chinese and Western restaurants, karaoke

#### Shengli (Victory) Hotel

勝利飯店  
222 Shengli Street, Hankou, Wuhan, Hubei 430014  
Tel: 212781, 231241 Telex: 400276  
Fax: 232604  
63 rooms and suites Rates: US\$42  
Located 17 km from airport, 8 km from railway station  
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb¥35; railway station, Rmb¥19  
Facilities: Business centre, beauty salon, massage, Chinese  
and Western restaurants

#### Wuhan Hotel

武漢飯店  
332 Jiefang Avenue, Wuhan, Hubei 430040

#### Xinhua Hotel

新華飯店  
45 Jianghanyi Road, Wuhan, Hubei 430020

#### Yangtze Hotel

長江飯店  
539 Jiefang Avenue, Hankou, Wuhan, Hubei 430030  
Tel: 562828 Telex: 40204 (40205) YGHTC CN  
Fax: 554110  
GM: Iron Chung  
Opened 28 April 1987  
205 rooms and suites Rates: Standard twin US\$62, deluxe  
twin US\$75, suite US\$108-230  
Located in the heart of Wuhan, 12 km from airport, 4 km  
from railway station  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference  
room, banquet room, karaoke, disco, beauty salon, billiard  
room, clinic, games room, business centre, bar



## Scenic Highlights in Wuhan

The best time of year to visit the triple-city of Wuhan is either in the spring or autumn months. The winters are extremely cold and the summers extremely hot and humid, although many tourists still take advantage of their summer holidays to visit this historic city.

The Wuchang section of Wuhan was established during the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220), thus many of the sites of interest in the area have long and interesting historical associations. Below is a brief guide to some of the most well-known tourist spots in Wuhan.

**Guiyuan Buddhist Monastery** This large monastery, located at 6 Cuiwei Road in Hanyang on a 4.7-hectare plot of land, is one of the most famous in China. It was built by two monks during the early Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) and houses many fine examples of Buddhist art, plus 7,000 rare volumes of Buddhist sutras. There are also sutras from India, Burma, Thailand and Sri

Lanka, making this temple a centre of learning for Buddhists in China.

A statue of Sakyamuni made from a solid piece of white jade is still in good condition in one of the halls, a gift from the Burmese in 1935. The monastery's Arhat Hall houses some 500 statues of arhats, each with a different facial expression. In addition, various types of stupas, incense burners, Buddhist pearls and calligraphy from the Tang and Song dynasties are on view. To reach the monastery, take the No. 5, 6 or 24 bus and get off at the Zhongjia Village stop.

**Ancient Music Terrace** Situated on the northern side of Qintai Road in Hanyang, the Ancient Music Terrace was first built in the fifth century. Over the years the terrace has been destroyed and rebuilt several times, the most recent work done in 1981. However, the original architectural style of the terrace has been retained, and now covers an area of approximately one hectare. To the left of the platform is a hexag-

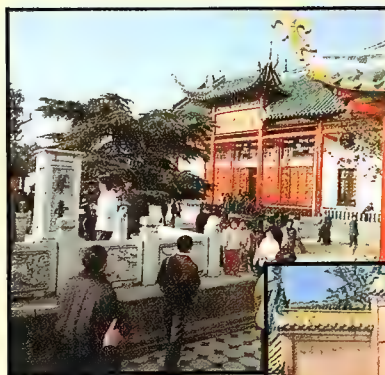
onal tower, from where one has a panoramic view of some of Wuhan's most famous sites, such as Moon Lake and Snake Hill. One can take the No. 10 bus or the No. 1 or 4 tram to reach this site.

**Qingchuan Tower** This tower is found at the eastern foot of Tortoise Hill along the banks of the Yangtze River, and is directly opposite Yellow Crane Tower on Snake Hill across the river. This tower was built in the early years of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and takes its name from a famous poem written in the Tang Dynasty. The present two-storey structure was rebuilt in 1986 based on the blueprint for the original. It is 16.7 metres high, and nearby are ancient archways, platforms, balconies and water side pavilions. The No. 44 bus goes to the tower, as do ferryboats along the river.

**Hongshan Pagoda** Built in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), the pagoda, also known as Lingji Pagoda, is located mid-way up Hongshan Hill in Wuchang. It is 43 metres high, octagonal in shape and made of brick and stone, in the same style as traditional wooden pagodas. Take buses No. 12 or 2 to reach Hongshan Pagoda.

**Snake Hill and Tortoise Hill** Known collectively as the Twin Hills, they stand facing each other on opposite banks of the Yangtze River. Snake Hill, sitting at 85 metres above sea level in Wuchang, is 1,790 metres wide and undulating like the snake for which it was named. Its eastern end stops at Wuchang East Gate, and various scenic spots are found along the hill, such as Yellow Crane Tower and Changchun Temple.

Tortoise Hill was also named after its shape, looking like a tortoise reclining on the waters of the Hanshui River to the north. The hill is 1,800 metres wide and 90 metres above sea level, and boasts such famous sites as the Ancient Music Terrace and King Yu





Temple, plus pavilions and pagodas. From here one can also climb up the 220-metre T.V. tower and gain an impressive view of the three cities of Wuhan.

**Yellow Crane Tower** According to legend, it is believed that immortals once passed over this spot riding on yellow cranes, hence the name. Built 1,700 years ago during the Three Kingdoms Period (220-280), it is the most famous tower south of the Yangtse. Located on the peak of Snake Hill in Wuchang, this tower has been the source of inspiration for many famous poets who have come here through the ages to enjoy the magnificent view.

Having been destroyed by fire and rebuilt many times, the most recent construction took place in 1985, on land one kilometre away from the original site. Built according to blueprints from the Qing Dynasty, the five-storey, 51-metre-high tower features yellow tiles, red pillars and upturned eaves. In front of the tower are many other pavilions, an archway and a white pagoda. There are also over 100 shops nearby selling souvenirs and other products, all part of the 166,000-square-metre Yellow Crane Tower Park. To reach the park take the No. 1 or 4 trolley bus to the Simenkou stop.

**East Lake** Located in the eastern suburbs of Wuchang, East Lake is considered one of China's most scenic spots. Six times larger than the famous West Lake in Hangzhou, the 3,320-hectare East Lake is actually comprised of over 10 different lakes of spectacular beauty. The zigzagging shoreline surrounding the lakes and the gently undulating hills make this place a delight to visit. Wandering around the lakes you will find plum blossoms and lotus flowers, wild ducks and greets, plus over 30 other species of bird. East Lake has been known throughout China for some 2,000 years, since the King of Chu wandered its shores, followed by countless other people, both the famous and the ordinary. To get to East Lake take the No. 14 bus and get off at the East Lake Stop.

**Changchun Temple** This Taoist temple is located outside Dadongmen in the Wuchang section of Wuhan, and was built in 287. As the most well-preserved ancient structure in the city, it is a magnificent example of temples from that time. It gets its name from a Taoist immortal named Changchunzi (one who has a long life), for whom the temple was built. Inside are statues and many Taoist sutras, although some of the statues were built in recent years, as the temple has survived several fires and subsequent reconstruction efforts. Take the No. 1 or 4 trolley bus, the No. 43 or 15 bus, or any other bus that goes to the Dadongmen stop. 

## Hubei's Culinary Specialties

**Dry and Hot Noodles** One of Wuhan's most popular street snacks is a delicious type of dry noodles, different from either soup noodles or fried noodles. The noodles are first boiled, then mixed with sesame oil and dried. When eating it, hot water is poured into the bowl of noodles with such ingredients as spring onions, shelled shrimps, pickled radish, sesame oil and vinegar. Nearly every restaurant in Wuhan serves this dish, but one of the best places to try it is the Wuhan Dry and Hot Noodles Shop at 854-858 Zhongshan Street in Hankou.

**Wuchang Fish** This special type of bream comes only from Liangzi Lake in Wuhan, therefore in itself is quite a rarity. It is cooked with a variety of other ingredients, such as ham, winter bamboo shoots, mushrooms and chicken soup, to create dishes that are all exceptionally tasty. Steamed Wuchang fish is the most popular dish, since when it is cooked this way the fish is at its tenderest. The most famous place offering this dish is the Wuchang Restaurant at Pengliuyang Road in Wuchang.

**Hui Fish in Brown Sauce** Hui fish comes from the Yangtse River, and has very particular cooking methods. During cooking the temperature of the flame must be changed three times, and cooking oil must also be added three times. The best place to try this dish is at the Laodaxingyuan Restaurant on Hang Kong Road in Hankou, Wuhan.

**Dongpo Pork** One of Hubei's most famous dishes is called Dongpo Pork, named after the famous poet Su Dongpo. One legend says that over 900 years ago, when Su was relegated to Huangzhou in Hubei in 1080, he tried some of the local pork dishes and found them not at all satisfactory. So he created several dishes on his own, and finally came up with one which was to his liking. Since then, Dongpo Pork has been a popular dish throughout the entire province.

**Huangpi Fish and Meat Dish** Just north of Wuhan is Huangpi County, where this local specialty is prepared. Made of fish, meatballs and a kind of meat pudding, both the meat and the fish are tender and delicious. As they are cooked together, the meat and the fish each take on the taste of the other, creating a unique flavour.


**Flying Swallow Fish** This dish takes much skill to prepare, as the fish, usually carp, must be filleted and the meat cut into the shape of flower petals. It is then put into a mixture of ginger and salt before cooking, while the tail is made into the shape of a

swallow's tail and fried in oil. A sauce is then made consisting of oil, sugar, vinegar, ketchup, spring onions and garlic, which is poured over the fish. The result is both beautiful to look at and wonderful to eat, and goes well with wine.

**Dongpo Cakes** Su Dongpo's influence in the Wuhan area is clearly seen through its cuisine. The name of this special sweet fried dough cake comes from another legend about Su Dongpo. It is said that he often used to go to Lingquan Monastery in Xishan (West Hill) in the city of Ezhou to look at the beautiful scenery there. Every time, he would drink wine and eat one of these cakes, therefore other people soon began to follow suit, and the cakes became known as Dongpo Cakes. The cake is made of flour, salt, eggs and water. Before eating, sugar is often put on top.

**Laotongcheng Bean Pies** This unusual snack food, named after the restaurant where it was created, is eaten in Wuhan at the New Year and on other holidays. It is made from mung beans and rice, and then a mixture of glutinous rice, diced meat, mushrooms and bamboo shoots is put in the middle. Then the whole thing is wrapped up like a spring roll and fried in oil. This delicious food is found only at the Laotongcheng Shop on 1 Dazhi Road off Zhongshan Avenue in Wuhan. In addition to the original recipe, Laotongcheng also produces chicken bean pies and shrimp bean pies.

**Tanyanji Boiled Dumplings** Dumplings are a common food found all over China, but the Tanyanji Shop in Wuhan has been serving its own special brand for over 70 years. Besides the usual meat-filled dumplings, Tanyanji also offers mushroom, chicken and shrimp dumplings. The shop, owned by the Tan family, is at 384 Zhongshan Street in the Hankou section of Wuhan. In Wuhan, the Sijimei Steamed Dumplings Shop also serves a wide variety of dumplings, including those stuffed with crab meat, fish, turtle and sea cucumber.

**Xiaogan Rice Wine** This local product is made from high quality glutinous rice, and has been a specialty of the area since the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). Light green in colour, the wine has a fragrant aroma and is said to improve one's blood circulation, stimulate the appetite and nourish the kidneys. This wine originated from a rice wine shop in Xiaogan County northwest of Wuhan. 



## Some New Highlights Along the Gansu Corridor



*Jiayuguan Pass once played a critical military role in Gansu along the Silk Road.*

The Gansu Corridor, also known as the Hexi (West of the Yellow River) Corridor, is one of the most well-documented and frequently-visited sections of the ancient Silk Road, running roughly parallel to the Great Wall. Beginning at Lanzhou and ending at the border with Xinjiang, this 1,600-kilometre route has witnessed the passing of countless caravans and travellers, from as long ago as the Eastern Zhou Dynasty (770-221 B.C.) when merchants first began bringing silk from China to the West. Scattered throughout with grottoes, ruins, pagodas, tombs and other historical sites, it is now the repository of some of China's most valued art and archaeological treasures.

The easiest way to travel along the Gansu Corridor is by rail, as the line passes either through or near to almost every site of interest. Another option is to take a week-long bus tour from Lanzhou to Dunhuang, or if you are feeling particularly adventurous, do the entire route by camel as people did in ancient times!

### Wuwei and Zhangye

The four prefectures west of the Yellow River — Wuwei, Zhangye, Jiuquan and Dunhuang — were once important communications channels, as well as military command posts, along the Silk Road. Wuwei is where the now famous Leitai Galloping Horse, used as an emblem of China's tourist industry, was unearthed. Many wooden figurines and bronzes from Han tombs have also been discovered, reflecting the town's great importance throughout history. Some places to visit in Wuwei include the Con-

fucius Temple, the Thunder Terrace, Luoshi Pagoda, Dayun Temple and Haizang Temple.

The next major stop on the Gansu Corridor is Zhangye, home of the well-known Big Buddha Temple. It was made a command post in 111 B.C. and since then has been a melting pot for people from all over the region. Besides the Big Buddha Temple, the Wooden Pagoda, Drum Tower and Xilai Temple are worth a visit. In Shandan, near Zhangye, an exhibition hall of cultural relics has some very rare bronzes on view, donated by Rewi Alley.

### Around Zhangye

West of Zhangye is the Sunan Yugur Autonomous County, home to 90% of China's 12,000 Yugur minority. Descendants of the Huihe people, who were nomads of Turkic origin, the Yugurs controlled the Gansu Corridor for more than a century until 840.

The county seat is Hongwansi, situated on a narrow strip of land on the northern slopes of the Qilian Mountains. The autonomous county covers 20,000 square kilometres and includes desert, grassland and forests. The Yugurs' traditional costume includes embroidery and special headgear, but these days is worn only on holidays or festive occasions. Being followers of Tibetan Buddhism, many of their customs are similar to the Tibetan people's, such as drinking butter tea.

Like the Mongolians, the Yugurs live in yurts, and still follow the traditional nomadic life style of their ancestors. They raise rein-

deer, which graze on the grasslands near their settlements, and migrate annually in search of new pastures. For this reason, they have remained quite isolated from the outside world and its influences. Although there are no major tourist sites here, a visit to one of the villages of this little-known minority should prove a fascinating experience.

Sixty kilometres south of Zhangye in the Sunan Yugur Autonomous County is Mt. Mati, where there is a series of ancient temples and grottoes. Most of these were excavated centuries ago during the Western Xia (1038-1227) and Yuan (1271-1368) dynasties. A few of the most impressive sites here include the North Horse Hoof Temple, the Golden Pagoda Temple and the Thousand-Buddha Grottoes. Inside the first is a mural and Buddhist images, and there are also caves nearby called the Bodhisattva Grottoes. The Golden Pagoda Temple was built in the Jin Dynasty (265-420) and later enlarged in the Northern Wei Dynasty (386-534). The temple consists of both eastern and western grottoes, which house clay figures and rows of Buddhas over 1,000 years old. The Thousand-Buddha Grottoes were also made in the Northern Wei Dynasty and were carved into steep cliffs. Each cave holds a stupa, and it is said that monks used to live in these caves.

### Jiayuguan

Jiayuguan Pass played a critical military role in this region until the Qing in 1884 incorporated Xinjiang into China. Jiayuguan is the western tip of the Great Wall, and the Gobi Desert can be seen from here. The Great Wall in this area was built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) to keep out the Mongols, who they had just overthrown. Both the Inner and Outer Great Walls can be seen here.

Eight kilometres northeast of Jiayuguan is Xincheng, where there is a complex of over 1,000 tombs dating back to the Wei (220-265) and Western Jin (265-316) periods. Paintings on the brick walls, usually one to a brick, are the most interesting feature of this place, and are a rare find in Chinese archaeology. At the time the murals were painted, life here was relatively peaceful, therefore most of the scenes depict banquets, hunting, farming, herding and other aspects of daily life.





**Sailing Schedules Along the  
Yangtse River (Alternate Days)**  
**Chongqing — Shanghai**  
*(MS Jiangyu)*

Downstream	Port	Upstream
09:00	Chongqing	08:30
13:20	Fuling	00:00
02:20	Wanxian	10:00
15:00	Yichang	04:00
20:40	Shashi	18:30
07:30	Chenglingji	05:30
15:30	Hankou	17:00
01:50	Jiuliang	05:00
08:30	Anqing	21:05
16:30	Wuhu	11:05
20:30	Nanjing	06:00
07:00	Nantong	16:45
12:30	Shanghai	10:00

**Yichang — Nanjing**  
*(Ms Jiangnan)*

Downstream	Port	Upstream
11:30	Yichang	09:30
14:10	Zhicheng	06:00
18:30	Shashi	00:00
22:30	Shishou	18:00
06:00	Yueyang	07:00
09:00	Honghu	02:00
21:00	Hankou	15:00
03:00	Huangshi	00:00
06:30	Guangji (Wuxue)	19:40
09:10	Jiuliang	16:40
16:30	Anqing	07:30
19:50	Gulchi (Chizhou)	03:10
21:50	Tongling	—
02:50	Wuhu	18:10
07:00	Nanjing	11:30

**1993 Sailing Schedules Along  
the Yangtse River (Daily)**  
**Chongqing — Yichang — Hankou**

Downstream		Ship	No.	Upstream	
Exp.2	Exp.1	Port		Exp.1	Exp.2
08:00	08:30	Chongqing		08:30	12:00
13:00	—	Fuling		—	03:30
—	—	Fengdu		20:00	23:00
18:00	—	Zhongxian		15:30	17:30
02:30	02:25	Wanxian		09:00	10:30
—	—	Fengjie		19:30	18:30
10:00	—	Badong		—	11:00
15:30	15:10	Yichang		05:00	02:00
18:30	—	Zhicheng		—	18:30
22:10	21:10	Shashi		20:30	12:30
—	—	Yueyang		—	—
08:00	07:00	Chenglingji		06:30	21:30
17:30	16:30	Hankou		18:00	09:00

**Train Schedules**  
**Guangzhou — Changsha — Wuchang — Hankou**

248 F.T.	244 F.T.	154 F.T.	126/127 F.T.	48 Exp.	16 Exp.	Train No. Station	15 Exp.	47 Exp.	125/128 F.T.	153 F.T.	243 F.T.	247 F.T.
12:58	08:05	19:45	15:15	23:58	20:52	Guangzhou	07:23	05:30	10:56	14:30	20:59	05:10
16:53	12:14	23:38	19:13	03:31	00:24	Shaoguan	04:02	02:05	07:03	10:34	16:43	01:18
19:56	15:19	02:32	22:17	06:13	03:05	Chenzhou	01:18	23:21	03:56	07:48	12:35	22:11
22:44	18:07	04:17	01:09	08:51	05:42	Hengyang	22:40	20:43	01:08	05:00	10:48	19:23
02:07	21:36	08:57	04:39	12:05	08:38	Changsha	19:46	17:32	21:15	01:51	07:29	16:01
04:24	23:08	11:18	07:00	14:13	10:42	Yueyang	17:27	15:19	18:56	23:40	05:10	13:38
06:11	01:48	12:56	08:38	—	—	Puqi	—	—	17:20	22:05	03:31	11:56
08:10	03:49	14:49	10:39	17:22	13:51	Wuchang	14:26	12:04	15:12	20:09	01:24	09:34
	04:27	15:27	11:17	17:59	—	Hankou	—	11:30	14:38	19:32	00:50	
	To Zhengzhou	To Tianjin	To Lanzhou	To Beijing	To Beijing		From Beijing	From Beijing	From Lanzhou	From Tianjin	From Zhengzhou	

**Train Schedules**  
**Wuchang — Xiangfan**

383	367/366	333/332	327/326	Train	No.	328/325	334/331	368/365	384
O.	O.	O.	O.	Station		O.	O.	O.	O.
	23:50		10:26	Wuchang	07:10			05:42	
12:32	—	14:54	—	Hankou	—	13:09	—	17:05	
—	00:04	—	10:40	Hanyang	06:59	—	05:31	—	
13:57	01:06	16:06	11:51	Changjiangbu	05:56	11:48	03:57	15:30	
15:31	02:15	17:07	12:51	Anlu	05:07	10:29	02:47	14:18	
16:43	03:31	18:44	13:54	Suizhou	04:09	09:13	01:47	12:58	
18:24	05:45	19:58	15:22	Zaoyang	02:55	07:51	00:20	11:19	
19:28	07:08	21:14	16:53	Xiangfan	01:51	06:40	22:55	10:10	
		To	To		From	From			
		Luoyang	Shiyan		Shiyan	Luoyang			

O. — Ordinary passenger train

**Train Schedules**  
**Nanchang — Wuchang**

297/296	Train	No.	298/295
F.T.	Station		F.T.
11:30	Nanchang	09:16	
11:50	Nanchang North	08:56	
13:32	De'an	06:58	
14:34	Jiuliang South	06:07	
15:29	Ruichang	04:38	
19:37	Echeng	00:26	
21:21	Wuchang	22:20	

F.T. — Fast through passenger train

**Train Schedules**  
**Beijing — Zhengzhou — Wuchang**

145/148 F.T.	61 Exp.	47 Exp.	37 Exp.	15 Exp.	5 Exp.	1 Exp.	Train No. Station	2 Exp.	6 Exp.	16 Exp.	38 Exp.	48 Exp.	62 Exp.	146/147 F.T.
09:22	12:05	19:04	18:14	22:30	23:27	07:44	Beijing	19:40	09:14	06:00	13:21	10:33	20:22	04:30
11:34	—	21:01	20:13	—	01:24	—	Baoding	—	07:19	—	11:23	08:35	—	02:16
13:30	15:35	22:47	21:59	01:56	03:10	11:11	Shijiazhuang	16:17	05:40	02:44	09:44	06:56	17:00	00:26
15:42	17:44	—	—	—	—	13:08	Handan	14:04	—	—	—	—	14:35	22:01
16:43	—	01:44	00:45	—	—	14:09	Anyang	13:13	—	—	06:54	03:53	—	21:11
18:10	19:59	—	—	—	07:10	15:36	Xinxiang	11:45	01:34	—	—	—	12:29	19:43
19:26	21:15	04:18	03:19	06:59	08:26	16:52	Zhengzhou	10:35	00:24	21:39	04:26	01:24	11:19	18:33
00:11	01:19	08:11	07:12	10:52	12:19	20:45	Xinyang	06:31	20:20	17:35	00:23	21:21	07:05	13:46
03:38	04:37	11:30	10:32	—	15:39	00:02	Hankou	03:09	16:58	—	21:01	17:59	03:43	10:03
04:12	05:11	12:04	10:51	14:26	16:13	00:36	Wuchang	02:32	16:20	13:51	20:23	17:22	03:05	09:25
To Nanchang	To Kunming	To Guangzhou	To Guangzhou	To Guangzhou	To Nanning	To Changsha		From Changsha	From Nanning	From Guangzhou		From Guangzhou	From Kunming	From Nanchang

Exp. — Express  
F.T. — Fast through passenger train



## Hubei's Cities and Counties Open to Foreign Tourists

Anlu	安陸市	Shishou	石首市
Badong C	巴東縣	Shiyan	十堰市
Changyang	長陽土家	Songzi C	松滋縣
Tujia AC	族自治縣	Tianmen	天門市
Chongyang C	崇陽縣	Tongcheng C	通城縣
Dangyang	當陽市	Tongshan C	通山縣
Danjiangkou	丹江口市	Wufeng Tujia	五峰土家
Dawu C	大悟縣	AC	族自治縣
Enshi	恩施市	Wuhan	武漢市
Ezhou	鄂州市	Wuxue	武穴市
Gong'an C	公安縣	Xianfeng C	咸豐縣
Guangshui	廣水市	Xiangfan	襄樊市
Hanchuan C	漢川縣	Xianning	咸寧市
Hefeng C	鶴峰縣	Xiantao	仙桃市
Hong'an C	紅安縣	Xiaogan	孝感市
Honghu	洪湖市	Xingshan C	興山縣
Huangzhou	黃州市	Xishui C	浠水縣
Huangmei C	黃梅縣	Yangxin C	陽新縣
Huangshi	黃石市	Yichang	宜昌市
Jiangling C	江陵縣	Yichang C	宜昌縣
Jianli C	監利縣	Yingcheng	應城市
Jianshi C	建始縣	Yingshan C	英山縣
Jiayu C	嘉魚縣	Yunmeng C	雲夢縣
Jingmen	荊門市	Yunxian C	郢縣
Jingshan C	京山縣	Zhicheng	枝城市
Laifeng C	來鳳縣	Zhijiang C	枝江縣
Lichuan	利川市	Zhongxiang C	鐘祥縣
Luotian C	羅田縣	Zigui C	秭歸縣
Puqi	蒲圻市	<b>Note:</b>	
Qianjiang	潛江市	C — County	
Qichun C	蘄春縣	AC — Autonomous	
Shashi	沙市市	County	

## Gansu's Cities and Counties Open to Foreign Tourists

Anxi C	安西縣	Lixian C	禮縣	Xiahe C	夏河縣
Baiyin	白銀市	Linxia	臨夏市	Xifeng	西峰市
Chengxian C	成縣	Minqin C	民勤縣	Xihe C	西和縣
Dangchang C	宕昌縣	Minxian C	岷縣	Yongjing C	永靖縣
Dunhuang	敦煌市	Pingliang	平涼市	Yumen	玉門市
Huating C	華亭縣	Qingyang C	慶陽縣	Zhangye	張掖市
Jiayuguan	嘉峪關市	Têwo C	迭部縣	Zhugqu C	舟曲縣
Jinchang	金昌市	Tianshui	天水市	<b>Note:</b>	
Jiuquan	酒泉市	Wenxian C	文縣	C — County	
Kangxian C	康縣	Wudu C	武都縣		
Lanzhou	蘭州市	Wuwei	武威市		

## Inner Mongolia's Cities and Banners Open to Foreign Tourists

Arun B	阿榮旗	Morin Dawa	莫力達瓦
Baotou	包頭市	Daur AB	達爾罕旗
Chifeng	赤峯市		自治旗
Dalad B	達拉特旗	Oroqen AB	鄂倫春
Dongsheng	東勝市		自治旗
Ejin Horo B	伊金	Otog B	鄂托克旗
Erenhot	二連浩特市	Tongliao	通遼市
Ergun LB	額爾古納	Ulanhot	烏蘭浩特市
	左旗	Wuhai	烏海市
Ewenki AB	鄂溫克旗	Xilinhot	錫林浩特市
	自治旗	Zalantun	扎蘭屯市
Hailar	海拉爾市	<b>Note:</b>	
Hohhot	呼和浩特市	B — Banner	
Jining	集寧市	LB — Left Banner	
Jungar B	淮格爾旗	AB — Autonomous	
Manzhouli	滿州里市	Banner	

## Flights to and from Wuhan in Hubei Province

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing—Wuhan	4	16:50	18:50	CZ3134
	6	20:40	22:30	CZ3136
	1 4	08:25	10:20	CA1333
	1 5	08:05	09:45	CA1393
	1 2 5	09:30	11:25	CZ3118
	1 3 6	20:55	22:35	CZ3138
Wuhan—Beijing	3 6 7	08:25	10:20	CA1333
	5	18:40	20:30	CZ3135
	1 4	11:00	12:55	CA1334
	1 5	10:35	12:15	CA1394
	1 3 6	18:15	20:10	CZ3137
	3 6 7	11:00	12:55	CA1334
Chengdu—Wuhan	4 5	06:55	08:45	CZ3117
	3 5 7	15:00	16:40	CZ3442
Wuhan—Chengdu	3 5 7	12:30	14:10	CZ3441
Guangzhou—Wuhan	1 4	14:00	15:50	CA1382
	3 7	13:55	15:45	CA1384
	1 2 4	19:10	20:40	CZ3348
	2 3 4 6	21:00	22:30	CZ3350
	2 3 6 7	15:40	17:10	CZ3346
	1 3 4 5 6 7	20:50	22:20	CZ3344
Wuhan—Guangzhou	6	07:30	09:00	CZ3359
	7	12:50	14:20	CZ3361
	1 2	16:50	18:20	CZ3347
	1 4	10:35	12:25	CA1381
	3 7	11:15	13:05	CA1383
	1 4 6	14:30	15:40	CZ3343
	3 5 7	13:10	14:40	CZ3345
	2 3 4 6	18:40	20:10	CZ3349
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	07:20	08:50	CZ3341
	3	12:00	16:35	CZ3642
	6	12:20	16:55	CZ3644
	3	07:05	11:20	CZ3641
Wuhan—Harbin	6	07:05	11:30	CZ3643
Shanghai—Wuhan	1 2 5	14:35	15:50	CZ3580
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	20:00	21:15	CZ3544
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	07:20	08:50	MU5323
Wuhan—Shanghai	1 2 5	12:35	13:45	CZ3579
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	18:00	19:10	CZ3543
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	09:40	11:00	MU5324
Shenyang—Wuhan	1	12:00	15:55	CZ3646
Wuhan—Shenyang	1	07:15	11:10	CZ3645
Shenzhen—Wuhan	7	20:45	22:25	CZ3992
	1 2 4	16:00	17:30	CZ3356
Wuhan—Shenzhen	7	18:15	19:50	CZ3991
	1 2 4	13:10	14:50	CZ3355

(Valid Summer-Autumn 1993)

## Average Climatic Conditions in Gansu, Hubei and Inner Mongolia

			Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Gansu	Lanzhou	Temperature (°C)	-6.9	-2.3	5.2	11.8	16.6	20.3	22.2	21.0	15.8	9.4	1.7	-5.5
		Rainfall (mm)	1.4	2.4	8.3	17.4	36.2	32.5	63.8	85.3	49.1	24.7	5.4	1.3
	Dunhuang	Temperature (°C)	-9.3	-4.1	4.5	12.4	18.3	22.7	24.7	23.5	17.0	8.7	0.2	-7.0
		Rainfall (mm)	0.8	1.6	1.2	2.9	1.6	6.7	12.1	5.3	1.8	1.0	1.1	0.7
	Jiuquan	Temperature (°C)	-10.2	-6.9	1.9	9.0	16.0	19.8	21.4	20.6	14.3	7.1	-1.6	-8.5
		Rainfall (mm)	2.0	2.6	4.4	4.9	13.3	7.4	16.7	13.9	11.5	2.1	2.0	1.3
Hubei	Wuhan	Temperature (°C)	8.0	9.0	10.0	14.0	20.0	25.0	30.0	30.0	25.0	20.0	12.0	10.0
		Rainfall (mm)	30.0	50.0	100.0	150.0	160.0	200.0	130.0	100.0	90.0	60.0	50.0	40.0
Inner Mongolia	Hohhot	Temperature (°C)	-13.1	-9.0	-0.3	7.9	15.3	20.1	21.9	20.1	13.8	6.5	-2.7	-11.0
		Rainfall (mm)	3.0	6.4	10.3	18.0	26.8	45.7	102.1	126.4	45.9	24.4	7.1	1.3

## Bus Distances and Durations from Wuhan in Hubei

Route		Distance (km)	Duration (hr)
From	To		
Wuhan	Shashi	240	4
	Huangshi	110	2
	Suizhou	160	3
	Yichang	370	7
	Xiangfan	350	7
	Jingmen	280	5
	Honghu	170	4
	Xiaogan	60	1
	Huanggang	100	2
	Jiugongshan	210	5
	Xianning	90	2

## Main Shops in Wuhan in Hubei Province

Name	Address	Telephone
Wuhan Arts & Crafts Building	744 Zhongshan Avenue, Hankou	566027
Wuhan Cultural Relics Shop	333 Zhongshan Avenue, Hankou	536338
Wuhan Carpets Factory	16 Ruixiang Road, Hankou	232003
Wuhan Chinese Calligraphy & Painting Institute	134 Zhongshan Avenue, Hankou	555380
Wuhan Friendship Store	263 Zhongshan Avenue, Hankou	555164
Hubei Cultural Relics Shop	13 Zhongnan Road, Wuchang	811336



### New Air Routes to Singapore

**Guangzhou-Singapore** On March 17 a new air route was inaugurated from Guangzhou to Singapore, making it the 20th international route opened by China Southern Airlines. Round-trip flights now operate every Wednesday, using a Boeing 737-300 aircraft. The flight takes just under four hours and covers a distance of 2,865 kilometres. On March 27 flights also began running from the city of Xiamen in Fujian Province to Singapore.

**Chengdu-Singapore** Starting on May 29, direct flights will connect Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan, with Singapore. Using a Boeing 757-200 and making return flights every Saturday, this will be the first air link between the two places.

### International Flights to Huangshan

The airport in the city of Huangshan, in the south of Anhui Province is soon to open up international flights. As the closest city to Huangshan Mountain, it is a mecca for travellers to this ancient holy mountain, listed as part of the world's heritage by UNESCO in 1991. The airport's first international route is expected to be to Hong Kong.

### New Airport in Wuyishan

The extension project of the Wuyishan Airport in Fujian Province is in its final stages. Its 2,400-metre-long main runway is almost finished, and all construction is expected to be completed by the end of September. Starting in October, Boeing 737 domestic planes will fly from Wuyishan to Fuzhou, Xiamen, Hangzhou, Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Shanghai. Other possible plans include international flights to Hong Kong and Singapore.

### Xinjiang-Kazakhstan Bus Route Open

From the beginning of March a new international bus route has been open, running from the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in the northwest of China across the border to the Republic of Kazakhstan. Buses depart every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from both Ürümqi and Alma-Ata. The fare is US\$48 and three meals are provided on the bus. The longest route linking China with the outside world, the 1,052-kilometre trip takes 24 hours. Rail and air transport are already available between the two capitals.

### Zhou Enlai's Former Home a Popular Tourist Site

Located in the city of Huai'an in northern Jiangsu Province, the house where China's late premier Zhou Enlai once lived is a popular tourist destination. Open since 1979, approximately 4.7 million visitors from China and abroad have come to see this historic site. Zhou was born in this house on March 5, 1898 and continued to live here until he was 12 years old. In 1979 the local government made the 32-room residence a memorial hall open to the public.

### More Terracotta Soldiers to Be Unearthed

The second of three vaults where Emperor Qin Shihuang was buried is about to be excavated. In the 1970's the first discoveries of terracotta soldiers were made in Shaanxi Province, putting the ancient city of Xi'an on the tourist map. The objects were found in a vault belonging to Qin Shihuang, who is famous for uniting the country in 221 B.C. In 1988 the third vault was excavated, and contained remains from the emperor's command headquarters. The second vault, about 6,000 square metres in size, is believed to be filled with more terracotta figures and chariots plus about 1,400 other historical relics over 2,000 years old. The second vault will be dug up before June, and its contents placed in a newly-constructed 17,016-square-metre exhibition hall.

### New Beijing-London Flights

On March 28, Air China launched two new flights, CA937/8 and CA955/6 from Beijing to London and back. Flight CA937 departs every Thursday from Beijing at 08:05, stops over at Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates and arrives at London's Gatwick Airport at 18:30. The return flight, also on Thursdays, leaves London at 21:00 and arrives in Beijing at 19:30. Flight number CA955 departs Beijing every Sunday at 07:45, also stopping over at Sharjah, and arrives at London's Heathrow Airport at 17:55, while the return flight leaves London at 21:00 and touches down in Beijing at 19:30. For reservations in London, contact the Air China office at 41 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0BP; Phone 071-6300919/7678; Fax 071-6307792 or Telex 9413721 CAAC UK.

### Complex Planned for Olympics

To improve China's chances to host the 2000 Olympic Games, plans are underway to build the Mingtan Scenic and Tourism Area in Beijing. Located at the capital city's Congjin Reservoir bordering Fangshan County and Fengtai District, the project will cover nearly 10,000 hectares of land, the largest of its kind in the country. Sponsored by a company from Taiwan called Ta Fui Manufacturing, the complex will include an international-standard 45-hole golf course, 3,000 luxury villas, 900 holiday flats, both five-star and three-star hotels, an aquarium, a yatching club, an equestrian club, a swimming pool, tennis courts, a shooting range, cycling tracks, a stadium and a shopping centre.

### By Motorcycle to the Himalayas

Sichuan Province will be sponsoring an international motorcycle tour set to begin in August. The participants will start in Chengdu, Sichuan's capital city, and proceed via the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau to the Himalayan Mountains, their final destination. Along the 8,000 kilometre route, which is expected to take one and a half months to complete, the drivers will cross ten major rivers, 22 mountains and pass through four different climatic zones.



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Next month's issue of CHINA TOURISM is going to be a Shenzhen Special. Originally a small town of 30,000 inhabitants, in just 10 years' time Shenzhen has become one of the most developed and modern cities in China, with new changes taking place every day. In our next issue, in addition to our regular features, we will be focusing on what has made this city so successful, as well as what it has to offer the visitor.

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- Shenzhen's Booming Nightlife
- The Evolution of a City
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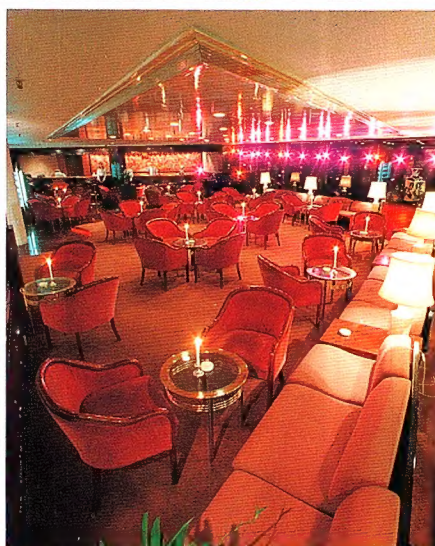
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- China Folk Culture Villages consisting of the world's largest number of minority nationalities
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- Appreciating all kinds of folk customs and local conditions
- Enjoying primitive, graceful song and dance

- Having a taste of unique flavour of local snacks and delicacies
- A grand "Folk Arts Parade" held each day
- Folk festive celebrations held each month



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